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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-94-180* *16 September 1994*

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Council Session in Cairo Concludes

#### Issues Resolutions, Recommendations

*NC1509180894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League Council has stressed the need for basing the current peace negotiations process on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in addition to the other resolutions of international legitimacy.

In its final resolutions and recommendations, the council called on the international community, especially the Security Council, to support the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable national rights, foremost of which is its right to self-determination and to establishment of its independent state on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The council also called on the Security Council's permanent members, particularly the two co-sponsors of the peace process, to work to achieve progress in the peace process on all tracks so that a comprehensive and just peace can be achieved and the peoples of the region can devote all their resources and capabilities to the achievement of development and stability.

It stressed that the multilateral negotiations and the regional cooperation they are seeking will not achieve their objectives except under a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace. It called on the international community to pressure Israel to stop placing obstacles before the PNA's exercise of its tasks.

The Arab League Council expressed their appreciation of and admiration for the steadfast sons of the Palestinian people and stressed its support for them at all levels until they can retrieve their inalienable national rights.

The Council decided to support the Palestinian people in its steadfastness and struggle to end the Israeli occupation of all Palestinian soil, establish its independent Palestinian state, and build its national institutions that are capable of achieving economic and social development.

The council stressed the extreme importance of the city of Jerusalem for the Arab and Islamic worlds and the need to restore Arab sovereignty over it as the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

In its resolutions and recommendations, the Arab League Council called for intensifying the Arab countries' efforts with the international community, particularly the two co-sponsors of the peace process and the permanent Security Council member states, to exert pressure on Israel so as not to alter the 1967 status of Jerusalem, to make it comply with the international legitimacy's resolutions on the city, and to commit it to not changing its demographic and population characteristics during the transition period, as this would affect the outcome of the negotiations on the final status.

The council stressed the Arab League Resolution 4328 on the need to take measures to implement the Arab summits' decisions, particularly the 11th summit, toward any country that moves its diplomatic mission to Jerusalem or recognizes the latter as Israel's capital.

The Arab foreign ministers called for focusing on the dangers posed by the Israeli claim that the Jerusalem issue is a religious one and not that of sovereignty and national rights because the city is an indivisible part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The Council recommended that the Arab League secretary general contact King Hassan II, king of Morocco and chairman of the Jerusalem committee, and the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general and to consult them about expanding the committee's membership in view of the importance of the stage through which the Jerusalem issue is going and consult them also about including the Jerusalem issue as a permanent item on the Arab League Council's agenda.

It also recommended that the Arab countries ask the UN secretary general to have the reconciliation committee cooperate with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] and the concerned countries in making a comprehensive census of the Palestinian refugees and their possessions and in drawing up a comprehensive concept of a solution to their problem on the basis of Security Council Resolution 194. It also recommended that the Arab countries lobby the United Nations for the continued operations of UNRWA until a just solution for the Palestinian refugee problem is found on the basis of the UN General Assembly resolution.

The Arab League Council reiterated its rejection of all the Israeli occupation authorities' measures to change the legal, natural, and demographic status of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. The council considered these measures illegal, null and void, and in breach of world agreements and UN charter and resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution 497 of 1981.

The Arab League Council urged the Security Council to bear its responsibilities toward Israel's commitment to implementing the international legitimacy resolutions which call for a complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and to helping the Syrian Government in its efforts to effect these resolutions.

The Arab League Council affirmed its support for Lebanon's efforts to extend its sovereignty over all its territories and for Lebanon's measures to implement the national accord document to preserve its independence, territorial integrity, and the unity of its people and institutions.

The council strongly condemned Israel for continuing its occupation of parts of Lebanese territories and for

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repeated attacks on the Lebanese territories, particularly the latest aggression against innocent civilians in Dayr al-Zahrani.

The Arab League Council asked Israel to stop its arbitrary aggressions against peaceful citizens and to implement Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israel's complete withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

The council stressed the illegality of occupying others' territories by force according to the UN and Arab League charters, international laws, norms, and resolutions, and regarded Israel's occupation of parts of Jordan as an illegal act.

The Arab foreign ministers emphasized the importance of Arab countries' support for Jordan's just demand and right to recover all its occupied territories based on the peace process and international legitimacy resolutions. They considered the occupied Jordanian territories as a permanent topic on the Arab League Council's agenda.

The ministers urged the United Nations, particularly the two sponsor states of the peace process, the United States and Russia, to work toward forcing Israel to bow to the international community's will and implement Security Council Resolution 465, which regards Israel's policy and settlement activities as a new impediment to achieving a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the Middle East.

The Arab League Council urged all Somali factions to implement their obligations and agreements and to continue cooperating with the United nations, the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization to achieve national reconciliation.

The council stressed that the restoration of peace in Somalia remains the responsibility of the Somali people. It urged all parties to halt all acts of violence, adhere to the cease-fire agreement, and view dialogue as the only means to resolve differences peacefully. It asked the League secretary general to pursue his efforts to achieve reconciliation to preserve the unity of fraternal Somalia and its people's security and stability.

The Arab League Council expressed regret at the continuation of sanctions imposed by the United States, Britain, and France against Libya despite Libya's resilient stand and full response to the requirements of the Security Council resolution.

The council also expressed its profound concern over the human and material losses suffered by the Libyan and neighboring nations because of the application of Security Council Resolutions 748 and 883.

The Arab League Council once again confirmed its full solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and called on the three states involved in the crisis with Libya to respond to the new practical proposal contained in Arab League Resolution 5373. The objective of this proposal is to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis and avoid any escalation that could increase tension in the region.

On Arab-African cooperation, the Arab League Council decided to continue efforts to bolster cooperation and remove any obstacles before the meetings of the various agencies. The secretary general has been entrusted with the task of continuing his contacts in this regard with his counterpart in the OAU.

The Council affirmed the importance of the Arab Fund's role in providing technical aid to the African states.

The Arab foreign ministers reiterated their full support for the UAE's efforts to retrieve its sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra.

The Arab League Council asked Iran to hold serious contacts with the UAE to end the crisis over the islands in a peaceful manner in accordance with the treaties signed between the two countries. The Arab League secretary general demanded that this subject be followed up and that a report be submitted to the Council during its next session.

On the course of Arab-European dialogue, the Council asserted that the Arab League Secretariat should increase its efforts with the European leadership and the European Union Committee to activate dialogue from both the political and technical arenas.

The Council affirmed the importance of expanding cooperation between the Arab League and United Nations, strengthening the role of regional organizations in joint cooperation with the United Nations, and coordinating the efforts of the Arab countries during the 49th session of the General Assembly with the objective of accomplishing a united Arab stand on the issues presented before the UN General Assembly session.

### To Pressure Israel on NPT

*NC1509213594 Paris AFP in English 2114 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, Sept 15 (AFP)—Arab League foreign ministers meeting here Thursday [15 September] decided to put pressure on Israel to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT].

Syria tried to persuade the league's 21 other members to give a pledge that they would not sign the treaty again next year unless Israel signed it.

The league opted to "put pressure on Israel to make it adhere to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and to open its installations to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)."

An Arab delegate who asked not to be named told reporters Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' failed to get a clear pledge from other delegates not to sign the treaty again.

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However, it was agreed that the league's secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid would coordinate the Arab positions ahead of an international conference next year on the non-proliferation treaty.

Israel maintains that it has no nuclear weapons, but refuses to open its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection.

The league, which was due to end its two-day meeting late Thursday, also stressed the "fundamental importance of Jerusalem for the Arab-Moslem world and the need to recover Palestinian and Arab sovereignty over the city as the capital of the (future) Palestinian state."

### Musa Discusses Session

*NC1509150994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the head of Egypt's delegation to the Arab League Council meeting, has stated that the council issued a resolution stipulating that the Middle East should be turned into a region free of weapons of mass destruction.

In statements he made today after the council's morning session concluded, 'Amr Musa noted that they also discussed issues pertaining to the nuclear situation in the region and action to locate nuclear weapons and remove them from the Middle East region.

He said the council also discussed most subjects on the agenda of the political committee, including some topics dealing with the Arab League. He added that the council will hold an evening session to look into the reports from all the committees. Its resolutions will be issued this evening.

On President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Arab foreign ministers today in Alexandria, 'Amr Musa said Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz delivered two messages to President Mubarak, one from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the other from Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

He added that during the meeting they discussed the peace process and bilateral relations. He confirmed Egypt's full support for the Lebanese stance on the peace process, the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 425 and 242, and Egypt's support for the Lebanese stance in general and the peace process on every track.

He pointed out that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed to President Mubarak a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that President Mubarak handed a reply to Faruq al-Shar' to be delivered to President al-Asad.

He said that during the meeting they discussed the peace process, particularly the Syrian track, and Egyptian-Syrian bilateral relations.

On postponing U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the Middle East region, 'Amr Musa said Christopher has some commitments at home that prevent him from coming to the region. Some of his aides will be visiting the region.

'Amr Musa noted that there will soon be a meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

On Arab reconciliation, the foreign minister affirmed that this is an important and major issue for the Arab world. He pointed out that this issue has not been proposed as an independent item on the UNGA's agenda and has not been discussed in a detailed manner.

The foreign minister also said that the subject of Arab reconciliation is listed and appears on all the items of the session's agenda. He expressed his hope that there will be a major response to this initiative by the Arab countries.

### Arab Court of Justice Discussed

*NC1609074494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that one of the most important achievements to see the light soon, realized today at the end of the Arab League Council's meetings, is the resolution to establish an Arab court of justice.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said in a news conference he held this evening after concluding the meetings of the 102d round of the Arab League Council that the Secretariat will send the draft of the basic structure of this court to the member states to obtain their opinions.

He added that this topic will be put to the Arab League Council no more than one year from today. He pointed out that the issue could be discussed during the 103d round or it could be postponed until the 104th round.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the current round concluded its meetings successfully. It issued many important resolutions that strengthen joint Arab action. He pointed out that the round was well attended by Arab foreign ministers, which indicates their great interest in current affairs, whether in the Arab or international arenas.

As for the situation in south Lebanon, the Arab League secretary general clarified that the council heard a statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. A resolution was issued supporting Lebanon's stance and showing concern for establishing peace and stability while stressing the need to exert every possible effort to stop the Israeli aggression on south Lebanon.

He added that the Arab League will exert greater diplomatic efforts and will try to implement Security Council Resolution 425 concerning the situation in south Lebanon. He noted that the council showed its total response

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to everything that contributes to rebuilding Lebanon and that it will support the Lebanese stance.

As for the nature of Arab action regarding the Libyan-Western crisis, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid confirmed that the Libyan stance is flexible and that Libya is ready to cooperate to find a way to end this problem. He noted that the Arab countries are showing solidarity with Libya regarding its stance.

The Arab League secretary general praised the Libyans for agreeing that the two suspects can stand trial before the Scottish judiciary, as long as the trial takes place at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

He added that the three Western states concerned with the crisis, the Security Council, and the International Court of Justice have been informed of the Libyan stance, which was rejected. He confirmed that this rejection is not the last word. He said the Arab League will continue its efforts until the crisis is resolved.

Asked by a Sudanese journalist about the differences between Egypt and Sudan and whether the subject was listed on the agenda of the Arab League Council, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League is eager to make every effort to settle these differences. He said the subject was not raised and that no one referred to it during the council meeting.

On the next Arab steps concerning Jerusalem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted full Arab conviction and adherence to the Jerusalem issue. This is the chief concern of the Arab foreign ministers and specific positions regarding Jerusalem and everything relating to it have been adopted, he said.

He explained that the Arab League Council meeting saw no dispute between any two countries and that differences over the religious custodianship of Jerusalem never emerged in the council discussions or in the documents it issued.

On Arab financial support for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA], the Arab League secretary general said all Arab funds are committed to providing every kind of support for the PNA. He said contacts are being held with some international organizations for this purpose.

On Moroccan-Algerian relations and the recent crisis between the two countries, 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League did not intervene in this crisis and that neither of the two countries raised the issue before the council.

On the Arab League's financial situation, he said the subject was discussed. We explained the way in which this seriously affects the work of the Arab League, he added.

Raising this subject, he said, had a major effect on several member states, which rushed to pay their contributions to the Arab League budget.

On the atmosphere of Arab reconciliation at the council, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the issue of Arab reconciliation was present although it was not discussed.

There is openness and insistence on Arab reconciliation, he said, adding that he never sensed any rejection of the idea, which was not listed on the agenda but was on people's minds.

He said frankness is the principle that should govern reconciliation. It is no shame to disagree, he said. He asked: "If there are signs of an Arab-Israeli reconciliation, is it not time for an Arab-Arab reconciliation?"

He said the Arab League is determined to proceed with its plans to achieve Arab-Arab reconciliation and mend the damage caused by the Gulf crisis.

On an Arab boycott of Israel, he said this is a permanent item on the agenda but stressed that no member state raised the issue for discussion. He denied that Syria and Lebanon did so.

On the Arab League's celebration of its 50th anniversary, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the Arab League Council decided to set up a committee under the secretary general and that an additional budget was allocated to mark the occasion next year.

## Syria Said To Deny U.S. Request on Palestinians

*NC1509183094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 1*

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] Tripoli—Taysir Qubba'ah, a leading official in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has revealed that the United States had asked Syria to hand over or deport the Palestinian leaders residing in Damascus. Qubba'ah added that President al-Asad denounced the request and asked the Americans if Rabin handed over the Israeli opposition leaders to them.

AL-'ARABI met with Qubba'ah during the 1 September Revolution celebrations in Libya and asked him to comment on the extradition of Carlos to France. He said that the extradition of Carlos was part of a suspicious deal between Khartoum and France, according to which Sudan will obtain four Airbus airliners and will enjoy other interests in Europe and France. Qubba'ah said that this deal falls within the context of competition between the United States and France in Africa.

As part of the competition, Qubba'ah affirmed, the United States will seek Sudan's help in Chad and Uganda, while France will rely on Sudan with regard to Zaire and Rwanda. The United States and France will endeavor to promote Sudan's international image in return for Sudan's services.

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## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Views Jerusalem, Settlements, Funds

*NC1509134594 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 5*

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sana' al-Sa'id in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] As the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement heads toward implementation, some problems have risen to the surface, including those that have been postponed. The issues are essential and critical, primarily Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, and water. What is your view?

['Arafat] We can proudly say that we have reiterated the Palestinian right politically and religiously, both Islamic and Christian, in our agreement with Israel, as well as the right to maintain the Christian and Islamic holy places. I insist on mentioning Christian before Islamic out of loyalty to the Pact of 'Umar between Patriarch Severius and Muslim Caliph 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab.

We agreed that our people in Jerusalem would participate in voting and in elections. As for the final status of Jerusalem, it will be settled within three years of the agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] But Israel keeps saying that Jerusalem is open religiously and closed politically.

['Arafat] What Israel says is not important. This is the agreement we reached.

[Al-Sa'id] Israel is introducing demographic, geographic, and legal changes to the city to change its character.

['Arafat] It is doing more than that. These cement blocks are explosive, not only in Jerusalem. Settlements exist in Hebron, the West Bank, and everywhere else. This is a violation of the agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] How can these practices be stopped?

['Arafat] By international action. This is the responsibility of the peace conference sponsors. For example, Resolution 904 concerning Hebron has not been implemented. Israel has even suspended the activity of the international force and insisted on doing that without consulting us on what the international forces in Hebron should do. These forces have stopped operating. We referred the issue to the UN Security Council and it is still being considered at the United Nations. The same thing applies to settlements, in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the water and refugees issues?

['Arafat] The water and refugees issues are two issues that will be discussed at the same time. You must not forget that there are two kinds of refugees. There are the refugees of 1967, who are called the displaced people. Their issues will be resolved through a quadripartite committee comprising Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and Israel during the next two years. As for the earlier refugees of 1948, their issue will be discussed with the beginning of the third year of the agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] Could the quadripartite committee you referred to earlier be used to discuss economic cooperation among the four sides?

['Arafat] No. But if there is a need now to discuss economic cooperation, this could be done through another economic committee. This quadripartite committee is linked only to the issue of the refugees.

[Al-Sa'id] It has been reported that the PLO intends to present a proposal making next year, 1995, the year of Jerusalem in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

['Arafat] The subject was presented during the [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers' meeting in Pakistan. Not only will next year be the year of Jerusalem, but we believe that Jerusalem should be placed on the agenda of every future action, particularly after Israel tried to separate the religious aspect of things from the political through the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe that Jordan created a problem when Israel granted it religious custodianship over the holy places?

['Arafat] Israel cannot grant custodianship to anyone. It is not the new papacy of the Islamic and Christian worlds.

[Al-Sa'id] It is said that Israel granted religious custodianship with respect to the Christian Catholics to the Vatican.

['Arafat] No one has appointed Israel the new papacy over the Muslims and Christians. These holy Christian and Muslim places fall under Palestinian custodianship which should be discussed at the beginning of the third year at the latest.

[Al-Sa'id] This is what the grand shaykh of al-Azhar in Egypt confirmed to me: that custodianship over Jerusalem is for the Palestinians.

['Arafat] Yes, both religious and political custodianship over Jerusalem. Just as al-Azhar falls under Egyptian custodianship, Mecca and Medina fall under Saudi Arabian custodianship, and al-Najaf falls under Iraqi custodianship, so Jerusalem falls under Palestinian custodianship.

[Al-Sa'id] When Jordan took action through the Washington agreement with Israel, some sides claimed it had created a gap. So, the Vatican took action to acquire religious custodianship for the Catholic Christians. The Russians also took action to acquire custodianship for the Orthodox Christians.

['Arafat] All this has diverted us from the agreement. With regard to this point, Israel is violating the agreement.

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[Al-Sa'id] Why the delay in forming the economic committee that will be in charge of receiving the funds from the donor countries?

['Arafat] Who said so? When the Norwegian foreign minister, who is also the head of the donor countries commission, visited me a few days ago he told me that the delay was caused by the World Bank and the donor countries. Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and the Palestinian delegation attended this meeting. We did form the required economic committee. So it is not true that no Palestinian economic bodies have been established.

We now have a government. We also have ministries specialized in finance, economy, and trade as well as in industry, planning, and international cooperation. We also have PECDAR [the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction], which consists of the governors' commission and is entrusted to contact the World Bank. This is in addition to the auditors and accountants appointed by the World Bank to supervise the spending of the small sums of money that we already received. Again, it is not true that we have no economic bodies.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you worried about water, especially as Palestinian experts say that Israel can cut the water and leave Gaza to die of thirst.

['Arafat] We will never forget that Palestinian water is being plundered. We will raise the issue in its entirety. We will discuss the issue of our water reservoirs in the West Bank. The water from these reservoirs has been confiscated by Israel. We have partners in the Jordan River. The source and the mouth of the Jordan River are in Palestine.

[Al-Sa'id] What happened about the outstanding issue, namely the area of Jericho, crossings, the presence of a Palestinian policeman at Rafah and the Allenby Bridge, and the Palestinian detainees?

['Arafat] Regrettably, this has not been resolved, although it was agreed when we signed the agreement on 4 May that these issues must be resolved as soon as possible. But four months have passed and the issues are still pending.

[Al-Sa'id] Are there any efforts to resolve them?

['Arafat] This is what we are trying to do now. Brother 'Amr Musa visited Israel last week to help us work out a solution to all these issues.

[Al-Sa'id] We know that 5,000 detainees have been released. What about the other 7,000?

['Arafat] This is not our only problem. We have other problems and we are asking Israel to solve them according to our agreement. But Israel continues to avoid them.

[Al-Sa'id] The security problem is still an obstacle. Israel is using the attacks on the settlers in Gaza as an excuse to say that you cannot control security in the areas.

['Arafat] Can Israel maintain its own security? Is there a state that can maintain security 100 percent? They admitted that security incidents have been cut down and we have arrested the culprits of particular operations.

[Al-Sa'id] Through your negotiating experience with Israel, through the Oslo document, and since you are the first to follow this course, do you advise Syria to follow a similar step to reach peace?

['Arafat] I am not in a position to give orders to Syria. But I believe that peace is a Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian-Syrian-Lebanese-European-U.S.-international need. Everyone should consider this.

## 'Arafat on Failure of Paris Meeting

*JN1509201694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Rafiq Khalil al-Ma'luf in Washington, Ruba al-Husari in Jerusalem, and AL-HAYAH correspondents in Cairo and Oslo: "'Arafat Tells AL-HAYAH: Abu-Mazin, Qatari Figure Harassed by Israel at Crossing Points"]

[Excerpt] Before leaving Gaza yesterday for Oslo to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat told AL-HAYAH at his office in Gaza that he was not satisfied with "many issues that have not been implemented in accordance with what was agreed upon in Oslo." 'Arafat asserted that there were "some points that have not been implemented honestly and meticulously as we agreed upon, such as the question of border crossings, the delay in the transfer of powers (in the West Bank), and the security harassments."

'Arafat specifically criticized the Israeli authorities' delay of the entry of 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Hasan Al Thani, the chairman of the board of directors of the Qatari al-Wakrah Club, who last week attended a soccer match between his team and a Palestinian team in the Gaza Strip. The Qatari figure was held up at the Rafah crossing point for six hours before he was allowed to enter Gaza. 'Arafat also criticizes the harassment of Mahmud 'Abbas, alias as Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, at Israeli checkpoints in the Gaza Strip during his visit to Gaza a couple of days ago. 'Arafat wondered: "Is this part of the agreement?"

'Arafat also accused the Israelis of delaying the opening of a safe passageway between Gaza and Jericho and their neglect of the issues "which, according to the agreement, should be settled quickly." 'Arafat said: "On the first anniversary of the signing of the Oslo accord, the Paris meeting (of the donor nations) has failed." 'Arafat, however, refused to spell out the reasons for its failure, and would only say: "Ask them (the Israelis)." [passage omitted]

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## 'Arafat Interviewed on Self-Rule Anniversary

*NC1509192294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1722 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Mahir Shalabi and Nabil al-Khatib in Gaza; date not given; from the "The World This Week" program—recorded]

[Text] [Shalabi] Welcome to our special program, which we are dedicating to Palestinian issues and developments one year after the signing of the Washington agreement.

How did you succeed in bringing the PLO into the negotiating process? It had been left out of the negotiations since the Madrid summit and yet became the first to sign a peace agreement.

['Arafat] First of all, it was not Yasir 'Arafat who did this. The PLO, with all its structure and its legislative and executive leadership, did that. Do not forget that we went to Madrid summit following a decision by the Palestine National Council and after President Bush's announcement of his initiative. The Palestinian delegation went to Madrid. That delegation was made up of PLO members, although we were careful not to announce that in order to make things easier during the conference. I would also like to remind you of what Shamir said. He said that he had been preparing for 19 years for negotiations. We opted not to announce that the delegation that went to Madrid was a PLO delegation. Eventually, it became known to all that the delegation represented the PLO.

Moreover, there were many attempts by many parties to give the impression that there was a new Palestinian leadership represented in that delegation. But the delegation and its leadership—led by my brother Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, my brother Faysal al-Husayni, and my brother Dr. Nabil [Sha'ath], and other brothers—could not be persuaded to change their famous and remarkable nationalist stands. They could not find a Quisling among the Palestinian people.

[Al-Khatib] But the agreement has been concluded. Can we say that by putting the Palestinian issue on a course toward a solution, the door was opened to other tracks, like the Jordanian track, for example?

['Arafat] I would like to raise an important point. When we went to Madrid, everybody knew. The Palestinian delegation, its leadership, and the Arab states—those who were involved and those who were not—knew that there were two phases involving the Palestinians. The first phase was a transitional period, and the second phase was the final solution of the Palestinian problem. Everybody accepted that.

I would like to cite a famous expression some Arab officials used during Arab meetings: Every person should remove his thorns with his own hands. But we have not removed our thorns and thrown them on someone else. Our thorns are still there in our rooms, represented in the suffering of our people until this point in time. What is important is that what has happened so far—and this should be clear and understood—is that there was an attempt to erase the Palestinian people from the Middle Eastern equation. There are many people who are easily erased, like the Abkhaz for example. World War I resulted in the Balfour Declaration which labeled us as minorities. When Golda Meir used to be asked about the Palestinian people, she would answer back: What Palestinian people? There is no such thing as the Palestinian people. I am Palestinian. I could see the number of children who were being born to these Arabs. What happened between the Israeli Government and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is very important. In other words, this agreement, irrespective of your or any other person's opinion about it, is a real and basic fact. The Palestinian people have been respected. I mean not only between us and the Israelis. This agreement is not a Palestinian-Israeli agreement, but as you know it was sponsored by President Clinton, and it was signed by the two foreign ministers of the cosponsors of the conference, Mr. Christopher and Mr. Kozyrev.

[Shalabi] Mr. President, 13 September, the day on which the agreement was signed, was a historic day. How do you now view the signing of that agreement?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, when we signed the agreement, despite difficulties and some points that we had were not easy for us, it was the peace of the brave. It required courage. Both sides found the courage.

[Shalabi] In everyone's mind—the two peoples and the whole world—is the picture of you shaking hands with Yitzhaq Rabin.

['Arafat] Yes. Salah-al-Din shook hands and treated Richard the Lion Heart. Not only did he shake his hand, but he also cured him.

[Al-Khatib] Mr. President, the 13 September agreement calls on the Jordanian and Egyptian Governments to cooperate with the Palestinian and Israeli sides, particularly regarding the subject of the displaced people. A year has gone by, and it seems that a committee has not yet been formed to deal with this issue. What is the situation on this issue?

['Arafat] We agreed many times to convene this meeting, but there were obstacles in the way. We called for this meeting to convene as soon as possible, and we expect the first meeting to take place this month, because it will look into the issue of the displaced refugees of 1967. As for the earlier refugees, that issue will be resolved in accordance with the agreement. One of the pending topics is: not exceeding the beginning of the third year [preceeding phrase in English], that is to say, a period that does not go beyond the beginning of the third year.

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[Al-Khatib] The Palestinian question has been linked to the Jordanian role. Did the Palestinian-Israeli agreement put an end to this linkage, or can the Jordanian role not be ignored in this triangle?

['Arafat] No. The Jordanian party terminated this linkage. We had proposed to Jordan that we form a Palestinian-Jordanian confederacy that would offer the two fraternal peoples positive results. This was declared by the Palestine National Council. But the Jordanian side has so far rejected this idea.

[Al-Khatib] Mr. President, the Washington agreement gave precedence to the Palestinians to discuss the final status of Jerusalem with the Israelis...

['Arafat, interrupting] What precedence? The Palestinian people, the PLO, and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] alone are entitled to discuss the status of Jerusalem. The Palestinians alone are entitled to have sovereignty and custodianship of Jerusalem. Have you forgotten that UN Resolution No. 904 includes all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem?

[Al-Khatib] But Israel has signed the Washington Declaration with Jordan.

['Arafat] We consider this violation of the agreement to be a matter between us. We lodged complaints to all the responsible quarters, including the peace conference cosponsors and the United Nations. The religious and political custodianship of Jerusalem belongs to the Palestinians. But God is the custodian of the heavens and land.

[Al-Khatib] In implementation of the 4 May agreement, you are now in Gaza. How much of the agreement has been achieved, particularly since there is progress as you have just said with regard to the responsibilities? There seems, however, to be a delay concerning the issue of crossings, for example.

['Arafat] Only the crossings? What about the secure crossing? The transfer of authority has not yet taken place in the West Bank. What about the area of Jericho? There are other things. During the signing of the agreement, I made it a point that I would sign only if there are guarantees that these things will be implemented. I still cannot go to Jericho because the secure and free crossing has not yet been opened.

[Shalabi] Yasir 'Arafat or Abu-'Ammar, as he is known in the occupied areas, was the symbol of the Palestinian people's struggle. He has now become an authority and a reality. How do you see the day-to-day work and the ties with the various factions of the Palestinian people?

['Arafat] Indeed, this popular image and overwhelming support from all sectors places huge responsibilities on our shoulders. The Israeli imperialism and occupation had completely destroyed the infrastructure of the Palestinian people. We must start from zero. There are donors in response to the call made by President Clinton. They announced $2.2 billion in aid over a period of five years. We are much obliged to the offer. But this still is not sufficient to rebuild the infrastructure that was completely destroyed.

As you know, we have problems with water, the drinking water. We have problems with the sewage, roads, electricity, telephone lines, schools, hospitals, and housing. The problems in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are almost similar, but the problems in Gaza Strip exceed those in the West Bank. The infrastructure in both regions is completely destroyed requiring urgent aid from all brothers, friends, and honest people in the world. Remember that the Israeli occupation is an international responsibility because it failed to implement the UN resolutions. Therefore, the Israeli occupation is an international responsibility in view of its failure to implement the UN resolutions. It's a political, moral, and material responsibility, and everyone should shoulder this responsibility.

[Al-Khatib] Mr. President, concerning the issue first raised by my colleague Mahir, the latest opinion polls in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip show that the Fatah Movement enjoys more than 40 percent popularity, that the independents are backed by 16 percent of the public and this is rising, and that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has the backing of 11 percent of the people. Your Excellency, how do you view this picture?

['Arafat] These polls are not accurate. You can sense, on a daily basis, in what direction the popular sentiment is moving. Our people are strong, enlightened, and aware of the difficulties facing them. Our people realize the difficulty of what we are facing, but the homeland remains too precious to worry about mere difficulties. It is worth all the sacrifices. Doubtlessly, Fatah represents the Palestinian struggle's backbone inside and outside the occupied territories. A large part of our nation, about 60 percent as you know, is outside the occupied territories. Fatah is the Palestinian people's pioneer movement in all its endeavors. I am not only the chairman of Fatah. It is true that I am a Fatah man, but in the final count I am the leader of the Palestinian people. In my office I am not treated as Fatah chairman only.

[Shalabi] The above question, Mr. President, leads us to another question about the composition of the PNA. Was it based on the respective popular following of the various movements? Is its makeup temporary only, and will it be changed after the elections?

['Arafat] The first thing we can say is that the PNA's composition is not complete. As you know we are only 17 members in the PNA now. The full number must be 24. We are leaving the door open to everyone to join. However, the elections will determine the PNA's final composition. Israel is trying to obstruct the elections. In his most recent statement, Rabin said: We are not in a hurry to hold the elections. He speaks as if they were his elections. They are our elections, and we insist on holding them as soon as possible. They should have been held in August.

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[Al-Khatib] Many of your colleagues among the revolutionary leaders have not yet returned to the homeland.

['Arafat] The names of some did not show up on the lists drawn up by the Israelis. We are suffering. But does this mean that we should give up?

[Al-Khatib] Therefore, their failure to return is not because they have other tasks or...

['Arafat, interrupting] No, some of them do have other tasks. For example Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], the head of the PLO Political Department and Palestinian foreign minister, cannot carry out his tasks here because our agreement [with Israel] states that the PLO will represent the PNA in connection with all diplomatic affairs. Some other brothers are still in Amman, not only in Tunis.

[Shalabi] Mr. President, those who go to Gaza can clearly see that living standards are low and the infrastructure is in a very poor condition. More than a third of the area's residents live under the poverty line and...

['Arafat, interrupting] Poverty, you say? Say famine. They live under the red line of famine. I said this more than once at Arab, Islamic, and European forums. I said it in the United States, Russia, China, Indonesia, and in every country I have visited. When we met at the White House, I told President Clinton: Listen, we can either have another Somalia or build another Singapore in the Middle East. We do have the resources to build a new Singapore. We have the highest rate of educated people in the region. We have beaten the Israelis in educational achievement. According to Israel's Javetz Institute, among every 1,000 Palestinian students, 18 are holders of advanced degrees while among every 1,000 Israeli students, only 14 hold advanced degrees. We beat them by a ratio of 18 to 14.

[Al-Khatib] Regarding the ambition to transform Gaza into the Middle East's Singapore, the agreement signed in Washington called on the G-7 group to help rebuild the West Bank and Gaza. What circumstances were behind the exclusion of some other potential donors who are only now being urged to help in the reconstruction effort?

['Arafat] No one is excluded. Everyone is urged to help. The donors [preceding word in English] meeting in Paris, which will hold its last session two days from now, calls on all countries to share in this effort. We will make bilateral contacts with everyone. However, we must be patient.

[Shalabi] Mr. President, you formerly called for Palestinian self-reliance to confront what you judged to be pressure from the World Bank. Is this making you turn to an economic system based on investment? What is your answer to those who say that the PLO has investments—I mean savings—that it must now put to use.

['Arafat] Regrettably, this kind of talk is the sort which we call a truthful report designed to produce an evil result. We are doing our best now. I recently met with His Majesty King Fahd. It was a blessed meeting during which he promised to help. I believe his majesty's promises. Do not forget that he is the custodian of the two holy mosques. I know that he will not abandon the first Qibla and the third of the two holy mosques particularly, Mahir, as Jerusalem is facing real danger. This is the danger of a horrendous escalation of [Israeli] settlement. It is a form of swallowing up territory and forcing demographic change. I am sure that my brothers will not abandon us. Recently I met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid, and he promised me well. Before that I visited Oman and met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. He made a similar promise. We are making other contacts with the brothers in Qatar. God willing, matters will... [pauses] Do not forget that the Palestinian forces were transported from various countries on board Saudi planes. Also our Algerian brothers have not refrained from assisting us. The same applies to our Tunisian brothers who tolerated much along with us. President Mubarak has also made strenuous efforts until we attained what we have done.

[Question indistinct]

['Arafat] Regrettably, just as the French Army once had the OAS [expansion unknown], there are four similar Israeli organizations. Just as our Algerian brothers used to confront the French secret army organization, we are now facing clandestine organizations called David's Sling, the Army of Vengeance, Saul's Sword, the Revenge Organization, and the Temple Guardians. Only God knows if there are any others.

[Shalabi] Mr. President, do you discuss such matters, like the issue of these secret Israeli groups, with the Israelis?

['Arafat] I referred to them more than once. I announced their existence publicly in many of my political statements and speeches. Some Israeli Army circles do not wish to implement the agreement. At least these circles want to view the agreement from a purely security, but not political, perspective. Some Israelis pretend to forget that the peace was a peace of the brave. It is true that there is opposition to the peace agreement, but it is on both sides. We have an example from history: When the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be with him, was concluding the al-Hudaybiyah peace with the enemies, he was told by [future second Caliph] 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab that it was a humiliating peace and asked if the Muslims must accept humiliation.

[Shalabi] One last question, Mr. President, the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty is 14 years old, but the Israelis still need security protection when they visit Egypt. Does this reflect Israel's fate in the Middle East? What is Israel's future in our East?

['Arafat] I have always said this to the Israelis: If you do not become a real part of the Middle East, you cannot

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simply exist through your rifles. You can live only through coexistence and the peace of the brave.

### Quray' Said To Criticize 'Arafat; May Resign

*TA1609082694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[Text] In its weekly session tomorrow, the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] will deal with economic aid for the autonomy. 'Arafat, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat are expected to return from Oslo today, after making a stopover in Tashkent. In Oslo, it has been agreed that the donor countries would meet next week to discuss the approval of the aid for the Palestinians after they dropped their demand for $5 million in aid for health and education institutions in Jerusalem.

In the meantime, here, Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], in charge of the economy in the PNA, is attacking 'Arafat's economic policy. Abu-'Ala', one of the Oslo agreement authors, said that no real steps have been taken to make the Palestinians feel that the agreement has made a difference, adding that investors are afraid to invest in the autonomy. The PNA is drafting a bill to encourage capital investment, which would relax regulations for foreign investors, but it has not been passed yet.

Through media leaks, Abu-'Ala' levels criticism at 'Arafat's centralist style, which aims at controlling the incoming funds out of his desire to manage economic policy. Abu-'Ala's associates say that 'Arafat lacks economic understanding and that some of the funds that will come would be used for political aims, despite the criticism of the donors. Abu-'Ala' refused to be interviewed, but said he will make his positions clear at the PA's weekly session tomorrow. His associates say that if he does not reach an understanding with 'Arafat, he would submit his resignation.

### Islamic Jihad Leader on Opposition to 'Arafat

*NC1609100994 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 9*

[Interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the organization Islamic Jihad in Palestine, by an unidentified correspondent in Tripoli, Libya; date not given]

[Text] [AL-'ARABI] How does al-Jihad view 'Arafat after signing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and in light of subsequent developments?

[Al-Shiqaqi] 'Arafat is a new tyrant in Palestine who defends the Zionists' rights and has no qualms about carrying out their orders. He is the other side of the Zionist coin, steals like the Zionists are doing, and is politically, morally, and socially corrupt, doing the same as the Zionist occupation is doing in all Palestine.

[AL-'ARABI] But we notice that one party is mostly absent from the arena of the opposition political action inside the occupied territories. This absence is undoubtedly providing scope for further collapse in the whole issue.

[Al-Shiqaqi] First, we as an Islamic Jihad movement believe in resisting the occupation regardless of the circumstances and the conditions surrounding us. Islamic Jihad's primary position is inside Palestine and "weapons" are its only tool in the jihad. Our presence outside Palestine is less important than our presence inside it. We rely on "weapons" and little else. We can move from one area to another to follow up the struggle and jihad of our brothers inside Palestine. We are primarily a jihad and resistance movement until Palestine is liberated.

[AL-'ARABI] I specifically meant the absence of the 10 opposition Palestinian groups. Your movement is one of them and its strong and influential presence is undoubtedly an additional strength inside Palestine.

[Al-Shiqaqi] We should first note that the alliance you are discussing includes various Palestinian groups, Islamic, pan-Arab, and Marxist. Some of them have existed for over (30) years and are suffering internal problems and complications that affect the nature of their action and struggle. Yet these groups' agreement to set up a revolutionary alliance was, in and of itself, an important development inside the Palestinian arena. But these forces that have suffered estrangement and discord are still recuperating and it is not easy to merge them into a quick unified program.

There is another observation. For the first time in the history of the Palestinian opposition there is no regional or international cover that supports it. Meanwhile the other party gets full support round the clock from Washington and on the regional level. We should not ignore that the Palestinian opposition is exerting extraordinary efforts at a difficult time and in complicated circumstances. We believe that the revolutionary Palestinian forces' alliance is necessary and important, at least for stemming recent collapses. We are calling for a deeper dialogue involving these groups and for reaching a unified action program that all the groups agree on. We are also calling on the revolutionary Arab forces and even the whole nation to back this alliance and support it so that it can confront the regional and international challenges that want to ensure the success of the alternative. We want support from within the nation.

[AL-'ARABI] Returning to the issue of struggle inside and outside, does your talk of the need for outside support mean the search for support from one Arab capital or another?

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[Al-Shiqaqi] Not really. We are talking about support and backing for the objective, namely the liberation of all Palestinian soil. We know that the struggle is centered inside the occupied territories, hence there is no specific capital or center that we should adhere to so that we can continue our struggle while we are present in the principal arena of struggle.

[AL-'ARABI] There are several assertions that the Palestinian opposition does not want to enter into a clash with the self-rule police. What is your position on 'Arafat's submission to Rabin's threats and his arrest of the strugglers in Gaza?

[Al-Shiqaqi] 'Arafat is subject to all kinds of threats, whether he likes it or not, because he has concluded agreements with the Zionist enemy, and they say so. He realizes that his self-rule will not continue unless he protects the Zionist security and that of the Israeli army, which is still deployed in the occupied territories. He must implement these agreements. But the mujahidin are lying in wait for everybody and we will continue to deal our blows. The fedayeen operations carried out by various revolutionary groups, which you hear about, confirm the failure of 'Arafat and Rabin's pressure on us.

## League Said To Reject Jordanian Role in Jerusalem

*JN1609095994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] The Arab League Council yesterday expressed its rejection of the Israeli steps to give Jordan a distinguished religious role in Jerusalem. The council said Jerusalem is a holy city that must return to Palestinian sovereignty as the capital of the independent Palestinian state. The council ssaid this city is an indivisible part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967. The council called on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territory.

Faysal al-Husayni—who is in charge of the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and who participated in the Arab League Council meeting—said Arab solidarity is needed to safeguard Palestinian rights in Jerusalem. He said Arab countries should not sign a final peace with Israel before resolving the issue of Jerusalem.

The Arab foreign ministers' council, which concluded its meetings in Cairo last night, decided to urge the international community to pressure Israel to stop obstructing the tasks of the PNA and to expand its powers to cover all Palestinian territory. The conferees also decided to set up an Arab court to resolve differences peacefully.

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## Algeria

### Dembri on Nonproliferation, Morocco, Dialogue

*NC1609064494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who chaired his country's delegation to the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo, stated that Algeria has declared its desire to join the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Speaking at a news conference he held here tonight on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings, the Algerian foreign minister said that this issue was discussed during the council's current session and that a group of experts was asked to prepare a study for the council on all the details of the treaty. He added that this issue will be discussed at the next Arab League Council meeting and noted that two thirds of the Arab countries have so far agreed on this treaty. He said that the problem now is to achieve coordination among the Arab countries to draw up a unified Arab concept at the meeting that will be held in Vienna next year to discuss the issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Regarding national dialogue in Algeria, Dembri said that the general framework of the national dialogue will be resumed on Tuesday on the basis of the dialogue's importance as a means to achieve accord in Algeria. He added that the dialogue is open to all the political and national groups with the aim of expanding the scope of accord. He stressed that none of the groups in the Algerian arena, including the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has been excluded from this dialogue. He said: The dialogue is held with all Algeria's faithful sons. There is a unified framework and constitutional and legal principles. All are required to participate in the dialogue to avoid acts of violence and terrorism. This is one of the principal demands of joining the dialogue. He added that the dialogue agenda accepts every proposal and idea and noted that the new energy aims to expand the dialogue basis.

Regarding the release of FIS leader Abbasi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj and their placement under house arrest, the Algerian foreign minister said that Abbasi Madani addressed a message to President Liamine Zeroual on 20 August in which he declared his acceptance of the dialogue conditions and participation in it.

Regarding the measures taken by the Algerian Government to stem the acts of violence and terrorism, Dembri confirmed that the state is undertaking measures in this regard and that every state has its own independent policy.

The Algerian foreign minister said there is security and economic coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Algeria in addition to the existing security cooperation within the framework of the Arab interior ministers council, which discusses all aspects of coordination within the context of the Arab countries' relations with one another.

Regarding relations with Morocco and the causes of the recent crisis, Mohamed Salah Dembri regretted the unilateral Moroccan decision imposing visas on Algerian nationals and foreigners of Algerian origin. Describing the decision as sudden, he asked how a fraternal country in the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] could violate the law. He added that this decision made Algeria reciprocate in kind. He said that Moroccan police conduct was unacceptable and that this is why the land borders were closed temporarily pending the receipt and analysis of all the information from the Moroccan authorities concerning this decision. He stressed that the establishment of the AMU was a historic inevitability that expressed the people's interests. He added that Algeria adopts the Maghreb project as a pan-Arab option, not as a tactical or political objective.

On Algeria's stance on Arab reconciliation, the Algerian foreign minister said: We expressed this stance during the council's current session. He stressed: The Arab world needs to assess its situation and the historic stage we have gone through in light of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Arab League. He said that the political agenda set out the principles we must defend and called for organizing the Arab political forces and guaranteeing the Arab nation's position in today's world. He stressed that these objectives are fundamental for Arab reconciliation and for developing joint action based on frankness before reconciliation, because we are going through major historic changes.

Concluding his news conference, Dembri called for adopting the principle of market economy and for using the Arab resources primarily to serve the Arab homeland's development.

### Interior Minister: Security Measures Continue

*LD1609005194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Head of State Liamine Zeroual's decision to transfer Abassi Madani and Ali Beljadj from the prison in Blida to another residence and to release three of their companions has been seen by the Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif as event that might bring about calm and put an end to the violence and spilling of Algerian blood. More details with Saliha Bahri:

[Bahri] In an interview broadcast by the national radio's Channel 3, Interior Minister Cherif asserted that the dialogue has begun to bear fruits. It is, however, natural that every party to the dialogue wanted to play its cards to its advantage as best as possible, he added.

The interior minister pointed out, nonetheless, that such a dialogue, which the state would like to consecrate, must be held within the framework of national principles.

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Concerning the security issue, the interior minister has urged officials in charge of economic installations to take the necessary measure to protect them. Meziane Cherif pointed out that no negligence in this matter would be tolerated; every official must play his role, he affirmed.

The interior minister pointed out that educational institutions, which cost the state billions and which have been the target of sabotage and arson attacks, need our protection. The deployment of policemen to protect them was within the framework of this notion.

Concerning the appeal by a number of political parties to lift security measures in force at the moment, the interior minister believed that as long as security and stability were still absent, the measures in force would still be necessary to protect the higher interest of the country and nation.

Touching on the transitional period, the interior minister said that a return to the electoral process was an unvoidable matter.

Concerning the closure of land borders with Morocco and its repercussions on the regional level, Meziane Cherif believed that the decision had positive effects on the availability of goods along the Algerian side of the borders by putting an end to their smuggling.

The interior minister asserted that the recent visit of Liamine Zeroual to Libya on the occasion of the Fatih revolution's silver jubilee, which has already been described as fruitful, had enable the two countries to forge a rapprochement and to surmount the difficulties that had been hindering an agreement of the demarcation of borders between the two countries. And every meeting between the two countries' officials was an opportunity to consecrate the idea that every thing that might harm Algeria would inevitably harm the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, our interior minister insisted.

### GIA Against Dialogue; Women Against Release

*NC1609065294 Paris AFP in English 0107 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Excerpts] Algiers, Sept 16 (AFP)—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), whose leaders have just been released from prison, Thursday ruled out early peace talks with the Algerian government Thursday and a rival militant Islamic group rejected dialogue altogether.

In a setback to hopes for a quick end to nearly three years of bloody confrontations between security forces and Muslim fundamentalists, the FIS announced that it would not join talks on Tuesday between the government and the opposition.

Another militant movement, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), rejected "any reconciliation, truce or dialogue with the renegade leadership."

"No compromise is possible and we do not accept posts or power- sharing to the detriment of our convictions," the GIA declared in a statement released in Paris carrying the signature of group leader Abou Abdallah Ahmad.

The GIA has claimed responsibility for the killing of nearly 60 foreigners in Algeria as part of its campaign to replace the military-backed government with an Islamic administration. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Algerian Association of Democratic Women denounced the release of the FIS leaders as "capitulation and treason."

"These measures, coming after so many atrocities, mutilations, rapes, murders and kidnappings, can only serve to destroy the foundations of the state and nation," the group asserted in a statement received by AFP.

It accused authorities of trying to "protect their own interests" and called for the formation of a "rejection front."

### HAMAS Issues Clarification on Dialogue

*LD1509135294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Today the radio received a clarification statement from the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement]. It said:

In response to the many interpretations which followed the remarks of the HAMAS leader [Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah] to the Algeria Press Agency and which were published in the national press on 13 and 14 September concerning the rejection of holding a dialogue with the armed groups, the National Bureau [of HAMAS] stresses that it will endorse and support any method that could enable the country to overcome the crisis, and it invites everyone to go back to the official document containing HAMAS' proposals that it presented to the authority to overcome the crisis. They were also published in EL-NABA newspaper and then in the statements of the movement, all of which emphasize the necessity to open the dialogue with everyone on the one condition that the national and legitimate interest be upheld above every other consideration.

As for those who exploited the opportunity of the political impasse to set up robbery and highway gangs, they are unable to contribute to the resolution of the crisis, the HAMAS statement adds.

### Kebir Addresses FIS Participation in Dialogue

*BR1509114794 Paris LIBERATION in French 15 Sep 94 pp 2, 4*

[Interview with FIS leader in exile Rabah Kebir by Jose Garcon; place and date not given: "Kebir: All Our Prisoners Must Be Released"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Rabah Kebir heads the "Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Executive Body Abroad" from Germany. Recently,

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the German Government, clearly bowing to France's demands, has asked him to show caution, in other words no longer to make statements about violence or "attacking the French Government's interests!" Rabah Kebir, for his part, has advocated "contacts and talks" between the FIS and France. This 38-year old physics teacher belongs to the generation of young FIS technocrats who were in favor of the movement's participation in the 1991 parliamentary elections and who have advocated a negotiated solution to the crisis.

[Garcon] Does the release of FIS leaders make it possible to start a dialogue with the government?

[Kebir] The release of part of our leadership is a positive step but it is not enough, because all our leaders must be released, including Abdelkader Hachani, the leader of the FIS provisional executive bureau, and all the movement's cadres who are being detained illegally. Unless it is temporary, the placing of the two shaykhs (Footnote) (Wise old men; a term of respect used by the FIS members to describe their leaders, in this case Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj) under house arrest is not acceptable either. These releases are the only way in which our whole political and military leadership can meet to draw up the conditions making it possible to find a lasting solution to the Algerian crisis.

[Garcon] How many FIS members and cadres are still in detention?

[Kebir] Although it is difficult to provide an accurate figure, around 70 percent of our cadres in the wilayas (provinces—LIBERATION editor's note), the villages, and at national level are still in prison.

[Garcon] The political dialogue between the government and the opposition is due to resume in principle on 20 September. Will the FIS participate in it?

[Kebir] I think it is rather too soon to say when the FIS will participate in it. We must first establish all the conditions for a legitimate and lasting solution. It is easy to merely seek a media coup. But if we want a real solution, everybody must be involved: If, for instance, the military wing was not involved in the process, and therefore if the FIS cannot first have a completely free meeting of its military leadership, the conflict will not end... The other preconditions for our participation in the dialogue will be defined by the conference of our cadres and by nobody else. Without consultation, there is reason to fear that some will refuse to participate in a dialogue. This is why I think that the 20 September deadline is rather too soon for us to have time to meet.

[Garcon] Is the FIS' demand to have a meeting of its military wing a demand for the latter to be present at the negotiating table?

[Kebir] The shaykhs have never said that in their letters. They have said, and this is quite natural, that both the military and the politicians must be consulted because, unlike the others, we are seeking a lasting solution. If we want a democratic solution, the FIS must be allowed to meet democratically. Unless Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj are being asked to impose a dictatorship.

[Garcon] If, after meeting, the FIS leadership thinks it can announce a truce, will it be respected? Indeed, we know that the FIS does not control all the armed groups and that the GIA [Armed Islamic Groups] oppose any truce and any dialogue.

[Kebir] If our conference decides on our participation in the dialogue, a truce will obviously be necessary to discuss the situation and I think it will be respected.

[Garcon] Do you think you have the means of ensuring that this truce is fully respected?

[Kebir] Nobody can say that the violence will be completely stopped. But 80 or 90 percent will stop.

## Sixteen People Beheaded by Suspected Extremists

*NC1509121394 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Algiers, Sept 15 (AFP)—Suspected Muslim fundamentalists beheaded 16 people, including a 20-year-old woman, in various parts of Algeria, the independent daily EL WATAN reported Thursday.

An armed group kidnapped 12 residents of Sidi Bakhti, near the western town of Frenda, on Tuesday night and "savagely mutilated then decapitated them" in a nearby forest, the newspaper said.

Three other people "had their throats slit and were mutilated" the same night in Oum El-Bouaghi, eastern Algeria.

Meanwhile an armed group abducted a 20-year-old woman, in front of her parents, from their home in the southwestern town of Medea. The woman's "headless body was found a few hundred meters (yards) away from the family's home," the paper added.

On Monday, EL WATAN said an armed group beheaded five people last Thursday night in Mila, near the eastern town of Jijel.

All of the murdered people were civilians.

Meanwhile two armed men seriously wounded a member of the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD-Said Sadi), a political party opposed to holding talks with Islamic radicals to end the insurrection in Algeria, the RCD said.

Mohamed Aouchta, also a trade union activist, was attacked from a car Wednesday outside the insurance company where he worked in Azazga, northeastern Algeria, the party said from its office in Tizi Ouzou, also in the northeast.

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The RCD is one of three parties who turned down President Liamine Zeroual's invitation to attend talks on the country's future began last month and are set to resume Tuesday.

### Sifi Chairs Cabinet Session on 1995 Budget

*LD1509220994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi chaired yesterday the meeting of the cabinet that examined the preparatory draft law for the financial year 1995 in accordance with recommendations adopted by the cabinet meeting on 7 August.

The draft law was enriched on the basis of the economic and social aims, as well as by the priorities of the transitional program that has been adopted by the Transitional National Council. The draft law has also taken into consideration the commitments toward the social partners.

The cabinet also heard a report of the minister of national education on the new school year 1994-95. The council noted that the new school year had generally begun satisfactorily, despite minor disturbances in a number of regions. The government would like to stop, on this occasion, and take the opportunity to congratulate and encourage the teachers, the administration of the educational sector, and the local authorities for their efforts to secure the smooth and good running of the new school year despite the pressures brought to bear on them and would like to urge them to be more mobilized and more vigilant.

## Egypt

### Musa To Meet Christopher in New York

*NC1609103394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the end of next week in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings. Musa added that the talks will address ways to push the peace process forward on all tracks and Egyptian-U.S. relations.

'Amr Musa is expected to leave Cairo on Tuesday, 20 September, for New York to attend the UNGA meetings and deliver Egypt's speech on 26 September.

### Syria's Al-Shar': 'Progress' With Israel Possible

*JN1509143594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who met today in Alexandria with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the sidelines of a new session of the Arab League's ministerial council, has spoken about the possibility of achieving substantive, concrete progress during the next few months on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations if Israel shows good intentions.

Al-Shar' said that the timeframe for reaching an agreement between the two countries depends on the intentions of the Jewish state.

### Jordan's Delegate to Arab League Council Received

*JN1509170894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Today in Alexandria, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, [Jordanian] minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education, who is heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab League Ministerial Council's ordinary session. During the meeting, al-Rawabidah conveyed His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to President Mubarak and discussed with him a number of current Arab issues and cooperation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

### Higher Court Backs Minister on Uniform Controversy

*NC1509202894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Higher Administrative Court, sitting today under the presidency of Counselor 'Ali al-Khadim, overturned an earlier ruling by the Administrative Court which had halted the implementation of the education minister's decision to set guidelines for school uniforms.

The higher court backed the education's minister decision. It argued that the law gives the minister the right to lay down regulations governing school uniforms, explaining that his decision does not prevent female students from wearing the head scarf after reaching puberty. The court pointed out that the decision, after its recent amendment, does not contradict the constitutional provision of freedom of religion.

### Two 'Terrorists' Killed at Cane Plantations

*NC1509180194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Two terrorists were killed today in the city of Mallawi in al-Minya Governorate, Upper Egypt. They are Fuli Muhammad Fuli and Hamid Sa'ud Mustafa who, together with others, fired shots at the ambush unit deployed by the southern bridge in the town of Mallawi last Monday [12 September].

A responsible security source stated that, according to information state security forces had, the two terrorists were using the sugar-cane plantations in the city of Mallawi as a hideout. Based on this information, a group

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of security men, including the State Security Investigations, the Criminal Investigations Department in al-Minya Governorate, and the Central Security Forces, scoured the plantations.

The source said that during their operation to find the terrorists, the police were taken by surprise when they were shot at from inside the plantations. They retaliated with gunfire, immediately killing two terrorists.

At the site, police found two shotguns, two Russian-made guns, and some live ammunition.

Prosecutors have been informed of the incident and have started their investigations. The source added that the security forces are continuing their operations in the plantations in search of others.

### Security Sweep in Suhaj Governorate Reported

*NC1609044994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 12 Sep 94 p 16*

[Report by 'Isam 'Abd-al-Jawad]

[Text] Fifteen people, including 13 terrorists, were killed in last month's major security campaign in Suhaj which was codenamed "the trap." A police lieutenant colonel and a Central Security conscript were martyred, and seven other policemen were wounded during security raids against terrorist hideouts in Suhaj Governorate. These raids were designed to eliminate terrorist leaders who had escaped to this area from Asyut and Qina and had established a new terrorist planning center in Suhaj. In a recent terrorist attack, the assailants opened fire on an officers club in Qina and on a tourist bus in Naj' Hammadi.

The security forces arrested 200 terrorists during the same period, including 35 in Asyut and Qina.

A Suhaj security source said that the security forces' success in Suhaj last month followed the earlier elimination of three very dangerous Upper Egypt terrorists. They were: Khalid 'Abbas, commander of Suhaj military wing, a major terrorist planner, and the official in charge of arming terrorist groups and manufacturing explosives in the governorate; Sutuhi 'Ali Sutuhi, a liaison official who used a fax machine to send information to terrorist leaders abroad, to receive new instructions, and to relay them to fugitive terrorist leaders in Asyut and Suhaj; and Ashraf 'Ali Salim, codenamed "Ayman" who was the right hand man of Mahmud al-Sayyid Salim, the al-Badari Organization's military commander. These three leaders were killed.

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi: Country Needs 'People's Commands'

*LD1509104894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2008 GMT 14 Sep 94*

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the "people's command" in Misratah on 12 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In brief I say that I am determined to bring together all the dynamic forces in the region in one people's social command. I am sure that this is necessary and will be very useful because I have found that the basic people's congresses and the people's committees need an engine [to make them work].

We had entrusted this matter to the revolutionary committees' movement but the revolutionary committees are an instigator and in practice the need became clear for an engine. One instigates people but one makes them move.

The people's command is a real safety valve as I told you last time. Our revolution learns from the lessons of history and has benefited from the lessons, and has come to the stage when it can be a truely pioneering and international revolution. It can avoid all the mistakes which led to the aborting of world revolutions, especially in the Arab world. [passage omitted]

However, although the ideas of individualism, superman, and heroism should be praised, still sometimes they are not very helpful. We glorified [late Egyptian President] 'Abd-al-Nasir. He was the idol of the masses for as long as he was there. But once 'Abd-al-Nasir died the support collapsed. We used to think that Egypt would be the last country to keep fighting on. But look at what happened; a downward slide with every new day. [Arab] countries have been bowing in succession and surrendering unconditionally. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people has, during the past 25 years, been forced to toy with a colossal experience, which was harsh sometimes. It has shouldered a responsibility which other people usually delegate to their government and leaders. The Libyan people was made to shoulder this responsibility at a time when the Libyan people was seen as an illiterate and backward people scattered over a huge area of land and therefore difficult to unite.

But this was overcome and Libya was able to make a big leap in the field of education. The Libyan people were given the practice of politics and power and were involved in a big battle in this regard. The Libyan people are now considered a leading and conscious people. In fact all the other people or most of them are stupid in comparison with the Libyan people; they are a long way behind the Libyan people. Therefore the Libyan people have become very conscious, very enlightened, and have acquired a political culture. They are therefore able to rule themselves in a specific way, that is to say the Libyan people are capable of establishing the jamahiri regime and the people's power from which people's commands should be derived for each region. We should, on the one hand, be self-confident and we should believe in the need for the existence of a people's command for each region in the Great Jamahiriyah.

If we were to overlook all these matters and say why should we go to all this trouble, why should we not remain like the rest of the world—this would mean that

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we would fall in the deluge that is flooding the world. The world is in a crisis now. America together with all the cowardly and decadent states are preparing for the invasion of a small country called Haiti for the simple reason that it has changed its system of government; a person whom America favored had lost power.

America said no, the one who lost power should be restored to power, they could not accept the fact of a people changing their leadership. They said the military must not rule—despite the fact that this Aristide, or whatever his name is, was a murderer and a dictator, but the Americans like him. It is a hard thing to believe that America gives itself the right to change any regime it does not like in any any country. Then America has the support of the so-called United Nations and the so-called civilized countries which are now proving their savagery and barbarism.

I mean to say that the world is in crisis. Would you like to remain like Haiti? Grenada is an independent state, there was a conflict between its rulers, there was a revolutionary group which was taken over by another group claiming to be revolutionary. Those in the first group were revolutionary, the second were Marxists, and the first leader was killed. America intervened and occupied the country! These are internal affairs, for God's sake. In Somalia tribes, provinces, and parties had differences and were involved in disputes with each other. Okay, 30 countries intervened in Somalia to stabilize the situation in it! They failed and a lot of people died. We do not know what they will do next in Liberia? They might intervene there! Ghana, Senegal, and all of the west African states intervened after receiving orders from America to intervene in the name of America because there is a conflict over power there.

First of all the whole of the political theory in the world now is a totally corrupt theory and the issue of authority or power has not been solved. This is no more the age of individuals and parties, this is the age of the masses, all the masses want to hold power in their hands. They do not recognize this and this has led to a political crisis in the world now. This has created a situation of danger. When you say we should remain like the rest of the world, this means that you will meet the fate of Grenada, Haiti, and Somalia, or any other country subjected to intervention, like Yugoslavia for example.

There are now over 80 countries in the world experiencing armed conflicts, including America itself. During Bush's rule the marines and the army had to come down the streets of Los Angeles, there was a popular revolution which could break out for a second, third, or fourth time. I mean to say you cannot say: well why don't we remain like the rest of the world. Why? Because this would mean you will be smashed in the mill; the world is an crisis and there is a danger threatening the independence all peoples. We should not say we are a part of the world, we do not want to be like the rest of the world, and we have to power not to be so. It would mean we would sit and wait for America to come and decide on our destiny.

The world that is ruled by one single individual, one single president, one single head of government, or one single party leader, is a turbulent world that is in crisis and has become vulnerable to intervention by the strongest in the affairs of the weaker. We are witnessing these realities before our eyes and we should learn from them. The world is fighting over the planet Earth, the space and the water resources. There are conflicts on the ground and in the sea—they even fight over fish. These are things which did not exist: water and food have become scarce now. An international conference held near us in Egypt is saying that the world's population has grown to the extent that food and water resources on Earth will not be enough for its inhabitants which number six billion human beings, the fear is that Earth's resources will not be enough for this number, they are thinking of ways to reduce the number. Look at the palm trees we are cutting down and the farming land we are misusing by building shops and houses over it—these things have become very expensive in the world. There is only one Earth, you could live in hut, a tent or under a tree but you cannot live without food or water. What would you prefer, the palm tree or the house? The palm tree is more vital.

Naturally I regret the fact that Libyans are reducing areas of arable land cutting down fruit trees and palms. I do not know why. When the arable land comes to an end and the palm trees and olive trees and orange trees cease to exist, there will be nothing to defend. Are we to defend the concrete buildings? [passage omitted]

Therefore I am saying that the Libyan solution is the historic solution—the establishment of the authority of peoples; there is no alternative to that. [passage omitted]

Therefore I insist on the necessity of the establishment of a people's command for each area—a social people's command—that means it should be socially distributed among the people, among the families. It should geographically cover the area so that the entire area can be mobilized through this command. The people's authority cannot be asserted unless there is a body that mobilizes the people's conferences—and that is the people's command. The people's command will implement all the slogans we have raised and are raising. I do not want to talk about the people's command—that should come from you. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis it is necessary that there should be a body which contacts all members of the people's command in Misratah, for example; a body composed of people from among you. One way or another—and here I do not want to specify which way—there should be individuals from among you to do that. [passage omitted]

The headquarters of the people's command: one may like to say something about this issue. Naturally what is being said at the Misratah social people's command is in actual fact addressed to every social people's command in every area throughout the Great Jamahiriyah. You

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may need premises to house the headquarters. If such a need arises then you can determine where that should be. But if there is no need for a headquarters it is not necessary to have a headquarters. [passage omitted]

The door should be wide open for any other active person who never had the chance in the past, to join a people's command in an area. But I envisage that the people's command of any area is the group composed of the active elements who are capable of mobilizing the people and who socially and geographically cover the people in that area. [passage omitted].

Please forgive my expression—I regard it as treason to see an active element outside the people's command merely watching the procession. There should be no justification for you to be outside the people's command. There may be difficult circumstances in the future, but it is inevitable to have a people's command in any area that satisfies everyone. [passage omitted]

The people's command is the one to be depended on in peaceful circuymstances too, as it is the one which mobilizes the masses in every area within the framework of the peaceful revolutionary program. What we would like to say definitely at this meeting is that before the convening of the next session of the General People's Congress—the General People's Congress must be convened to elect new secretaries for new secretariats which has become necessary, such as secretarists for tourism and marine resources, as the latter should be separated from the secretariat for agriculture—we need to elect [to the people's commands] very important, trained, and highly efficient people, who are capable of locally solving problems and taking decisions in the same area. Prior to the convening of the General People's Congress, God willing, the plan which we have talked about for each area—and now we are talking about Misratah—should be ready and deposited with the people's committees and the people's congresses in that area. When the General People's Congress is convened secretaries of the people's congresses—of Misratah for example—and secretaries of the people's committees representing the various localities of Misratah, should attend and bring with them the plan that will transform Misratah from backwardness to progress—the plan that has been laid down by the experts from among the sons of this area. The plan should be then ready. This is so that the people's committees of the various areas and the executive committees can begin implementing the plan under the supervision of the people's command at the people's congresses at any area. [passage omitted]. Prior to convening the General People's Congress—whenever that will be, I am concerned about that as the affairs of the General People's Congress are in the hands of the people's congresses and the secretariat of the General People's Congress; we do not know when it will be convened. But when the General People's Congress is convened, these plans should be ready. [passage omitted]

These are very clear matters. No one should say that they are unclear. Is there anybody who says there is some ambiguity in this or that issue? Alright, there is no one; that means that they are clear. As I have told you each command should have a register, and each member of the command should have a file—a personal file containing his photograph and full information about him.

Here is a personal file carrying the name of 'Uthman, his photograph and information concerning him, and this a register containing the names of all the [local] people's command. Every commune [mahallah] must be a sort of an autonomous state with people's power, a people's congress, and a people's committee, which have full prerogatives. The commune will be responsible for everything: even your car plate will be the responsibility of the commune. [passage omitted saying ID cards and passports will carry the name of the commune]

If something happens in the commune you [members of the social people's command] will be held responsible, even for price rises. [passage omitted on local control of any price rise].

If somebody is unemployed then the commune is also responsible, and it must find a solution. Perhaps there is a foreigner who is employed while you [Libyans] are not. Then the commune sacks the foreigner and puts you in his place. If you are not trained it will train you; vocational training is available in the commune [applause].

We want to start immediately laying down the plan by scientists and experts, and afterward we will have the necessary funds to finance this plan. The people's committees in communes will then start implementing this plan. For example: the people's committee and people's congress of Qasr Ahmad will be in charge of carrying out the plan for [meeting] all the needs to Qasr Ahmad, under the supervision of the members of the people's command in Qasr Ahmad, who belong to the people's command of Misratah. [passage omitted]

The role of the people's command will become clear and it will be affirmed and practised with the passage of time. As months and years pass by, you will see the need for this command. [passage omitted in which al-Qadhdhafi asks audience if there are any questions about the task of the people's command; no questions are asked, he says: "Well then, the struggle continues," and concludes the meeting].

## JANA on U.S. 'Tyranny' Against Haiti

*LD1509193094 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Washington, al-Fatih [September] 15, Jamahiriyah News Agency—America shows daily its determination on persisting in its policy of tyranny and terrorism against the peoples of the world who oppose the schemes of colonial domination and hegemony and refuse to compromise their freedom and sovereignty.

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America is continuing nowadays waging a blatant terrorist campaign, exerting continuous psychological pressures and threats to invade Haiti in defiance of all international conventions and customs using the U.N. and the so-called Security Council as an instrument to pass resolutions consistent with American hostile tendency against peoples whose will coincided for the establishment of these international institutions. This proves that America is heading towards becoming a state without conscience or morals and proving the invalidity of the U.N. Charter and acts.

The American president reiterated to journalists American threats to invade Haiti and impose a government which will carry out American orders and execute American policies.

The American president threatened the officials of this U.N. member state with the use of force if they refused to comply to this tyranny. The American president claimed that he exhausted what he called all other options.

The American defence minister on his part repeat today his threats against the people of Haiti saying that America will be ready soon for invading that country.

Also the American deputy secretary of state declared that the American led forces will soon impose its control in Haiti.

The American president will make speech later today devoting it to mislead the American public opinion and get through across the American Government hostile plan against Haiti which will not go beyond repeating American claims that this hostile step against the people of Haiti is aimed at protecting American interests.

However, a number of American congressmen are sternly opposed to the American invasion of Haiti and have deplored what they call as gun-boat diplomacy against Haiti.

The member of Congress For Arizona today affirmed that the majority of congressmen oppose the invasion and that 73 percent of Americans oppose this step. He put question mark on the refusal of giving members of the Congress a chance to vote on a matter which is of vital interest to American's life and opposed by the American people.

Reports asserted that the American aircraft carrier Eisenhower left the naval base of Norfolk in the state of Virginia for the international waters of Haiti carrying 50 helicopters and 2,000 American soldiers. The American aircraft carrier "America" sailed on Tuesday carrying military forces to join the American naval units and about 18,000 American marines.

## Sudan

### 'Understanding' Hoped For After Carlos Extradition

*MM1609090394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Sep 94 p 3*

[Interview with Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din by Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, a minister at the Sudanese presidential palace who seems to be familiar with the Carlos file dating back to before his arrest, says: Regarding Dr. al-Turabi's links with the Carlos issue or the negotiation over him with the French, it is something that never happened. Nor is there any link between al-Turabi's recent visit to Paris and the Carlos issue. The truth is that Dr. al-Turabi was on his way from Spain to Sudan via Paris because there is no direct route between Madrid and Khartoum. [passage omitted]

[Khalifah] The Egyptian Space Channel [ESC] showed one film or more about Carlos' life in Khartoum. Did Cairo know of his presence and inform French intelligence of the matter?

[Salah-al-Din] If Egyptian intelligence had known of Carlos' presence, it would not have remained silent or waited for one single moment.

If Carlos' presence in Khartoum was discovered by Egyptian or U.S. intelligence, it would have been used as an excuse to launch an armed attack on us, let alone condemn us. That is one point. The second point is that the relationship between the Egyptian diplomat Tariq al-Mahdawi and Carlos continued, in our view, for several months on the basis that Carlos, in the Egyptian diplomat's view, was merely a rich Arab called 'Abdallah Barakat, a night owl who used to spend generously with the notables at community clubs in Khartoum. What is a certain thing is that the Egyptian diplomat did not know that his nighttime friend was the wanted international terrorist Carlos. Otherwise he would not have waited for a single moment.

[Khalifah] But what is the story of the film shown by the ESC about a party Carlos attended in Khartoum?

[Salah-al-Din] As I said earlier, Carlos used to go out regularly at night with the Egyptian diplomat Tariq al-Mahdawi, and community clubs were their preferred places. Since wedding and other parties used to be held in these clubs, al-Mahdawi invited Carlos to a party, probably a wedding party belonging to an Egyptian family in Khartoum. Obviously, as is customary in such occasions, the party was filmed. When Carlos was exposed and the Egyptian diplomat knew about it from the media, he took the film from those concerned with the occasion and attributed it to himself or to Egyptian intelligence.

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[Khalifah] What has Sudan received in return for Carlos' extradition? No one believes that you did that for the sake of God and relations with France.

[Salah-al-Din] The biggest problem facing us now is our foreign relations, which as you know, have to a large extent been affected by untrue allegations and accusations.

We believe that the gain we have secured from France in particular and the West in general is that we voluntarily extradited Carlos, who had mistakenly thought, or was made to believe by some people, that Sudan was the right place for him to spend the rest of his life away from justice.

We expect France and the Western states to understand that we do not deal with terrorism or terrorists, and that would be sufficient payment for and would satisfy us in return for our extradition of Carlos to France.

[Khalifah] Do you expect the Carlos question to have an immediate impact on your relations with the United States?

[Salah-al-Din] We understand that our relations with the United States are affected by other basic issues deeper than the terrorism and human rights issues.

Besides, the claim that our relations with the United States deteriorated after the Gulf war is inaccurate. The United States is hostile toward our independent decisionmaking and our distinct position on all its policies in our region. And U.S. policy is influenced by regional views regarding conditions in our country, especially the views of our Egyptian brothers. What we expect after the Carlos affair, and other international and regional factors, is U.S. and Western understanding of the real situation in Sudan. And then we will be happy.

### Joint Ministerial Committee With Chad Meets

*EA1609122094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Meetings of the Chad-Sudan joint ministerial committee began at the Grand Hotel this afternoon under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, and his Chadian counterpart, Ahmat Abderamane Haggar.

During his address to the opening session, Dr. Abu-Salih spoke of the depth and firmness of relations between Khartoum and Ndjamena, pointing out that colonialism had tried to weaken their relations and to prevent bilateral contact. This means relations were slack in the past. Dr. Abu-Salih confirmed Sudan's eagerness to establish good relations with its neighbors and to promote the interests of the two countries. He said security and stability are regarded as fundamental issues for (?their two countries).

### 'Secret Decision' Said Made on Chief of Staff

*NC1509154194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 9*

[From the "Brothers" Page]

[Text] Knowledgeable Sudanese sources have said that the Sudanese Government has adopted a secret decision to appoint retired Brigadier General Haydar Babakr al-Musharraf as the chief of staff. Brig. Gen. Haydar has been seen accompanying Lieutenant General al-Bashir on various occasions recently. The sources added that al-Bashir is about to replace the Armed Forces command staff personnel.

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### Six Gulf States Make Moves Toward Common Market

*NC1509163494 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 15 (AFP)—Six Gulf Arab states have made further moves toward setting up a common market in line with an economic pact they signed a year after they created their alliance, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in 1981.

The finance and economy ministers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman agreed at talks in Riyadh late Wednesday [14 September] to press ahead with a customs union, open more business outlets for their citizens and unify laws on local incentives and foreign investment.

The ministers asked the GCC secretariat to consider increasing the number of companies in which citizens were allowed to own shares, UAE Minister of State for Financial and Industrial Affairs Ahmad al-Tayir told reporters on returning from Riyadh.

He said the ministers also agreed on a common mechanism for foreign investment and arrangements for protecting national products.

"Our undersecretaries will meet in October to try and unify incentives for national industries," he said.

Bankers said the ministers' decision to shelve a plan to decouple their currencies from the US dollar would not affect the planned common market.

Kuwait is the only GCC member to have its currency, the dinar, linked to a basket of major currencies, in which the US dollar has the lion's share.

Fluctuations in exchange rates occurred mainly between the dinar and the other GCC currencies, but they were not sharp enough to affect the flow of trade in a common market, the bankers said.

A UAE bank manager told AFP the exchange rates in the GCC had been relatively stable for the past decade because they were dominated by the US dollar, in which their oil sales were calculated.

Speaking in London earlier this week, GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi said he hoped the nucleus of a common market would emerge in 1997.

Quoted by the official UAE media, he said GCC nations had made considerable progress in that direction despite their occasional rifts.

A common GCC market would be the biggest consumer market in the Middle East, with imports exceeding 50 billion dollars a year and a Gross Domestic Product of more than 200 billion dollars.

GCC officials said a common market, stipulated in their 1982 economic accord, became imperative after most of them joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The rest plan to follow suit.

Al-Tayir said the ministers also discussed plans for a GCC customs union. They asked a special committee to complete a list of products to be covered by the new tariff system, and a large portion of the list had already been finalised, he added.

A customs union would bridge the wide gap in existing tariffs, which exceed 20 percent in some member states but are below four percent in others.

The proposed new tariff ranges from five percent for food and other essential goods to 10 percent for luxury items and other non-essential goods.

A UAE official said the ministers would meet again in November and make recommendations to their heads of state who are due to meet in Bahrain in December.

## Kuwait

### Foreign Minister on Reconciliation With Iraq

*NC1609070294 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 12 Sep 94 pp 12-14*

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah by Mufid Fawzi in Kuwait City; date not given]

[Text] I had asked to hear the "voice" of an official Kuwaiti source commenting on the rumored "Iraqi offer of reconciliation to Kuwait." The report had been circulated by the press. Then I got a call from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, telling me: Leave Cairo on the Friday plane. I will meet you on Saturday and you can return to Egypt on Sunday if you wish. Because the interview was political, it had a rapid tempo and I was back in 48 hours.

In his office at the Foreign Ministry Sabah al-Ahmad told me: Reconciliation is not impossible, but!

He said: Yes we have relations with the Iraqi opposition, but!

He added: We participated in spreading the rumor, but!

He told me: The Jordanian envoy came for a purpose not connected with the reconciliation, but!

He said: We welcomed the Palestinian state and lifted the boycott of Israel, but!

Using my tape recording, I am now relaying the interview to you.

I told Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: When questions besiege us, we come to you to clarify matters.

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Abu-Nasir [Sabah al-Ahmad] said: The questions are many, particularly those coming from Baghdad, our neighbor, or the one who used to be a neighbor.

I told Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad: This is my opening. What are the facts concerning the Iraqi reconciliation offer that drew much attention from the Arabs and Egyptians, then just dissipated like a summer cloud?

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: There is nothing new to justify this storm, the storm of reconciliation. I see it as a "trial balloon" that is sent up whenever 14 September, the date of the imposition of sanctions on Iraq, comes around again. I believe you know that the Iraqi president, in a speech on 17 July, called for what he described as "dialogue with the neighboring countries." Dialogue with whom? It is mere hallucinations.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF note] From Saddam Husayn's speech: "At any rate, all the foreigners' fleets and promises cannot be a substitute for the feeling of reassurance provided by a positive relationship in the embrace of the nation. The security that the nation provides is honorable but the protection provided by the foreigner and subservience to him is a disgrace that will pursue the living and the dead and their progeny."

From a statement by Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Muhammad Salih: "In line with the principles and concepts included in the leader president's speech, in a sincere quest to transform this pan-Arab initiative into practical measures serving the Arab countries's collective and vital security interests, the Iraqi National Assembly addresses an invitation to the parliaments, including the Kuwaiti parliament, to hold bilateral meetings without prior conditions to discuss and debate the problems between them and Iraq...." [end note]

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: What was the source of the news report that was transformed into banner headlines?

The Kuwaiti foreign minister replied: To be entirely clear and truthful, we were partners in creating the reconciliation furor. When President Husni Mubarak visited his brother [the UAE President] Shaykh Zayid in Geneva, the Iraqi newspapers jumped at the news. This was copied by the Kuwaiti newspapers and in turn by the Egyptian newspapers. After that the Arab League secretary general came to visit. Speculations were rife as if something had happened. While—in my capacity as Kuwaiti foreign minister—I tell you that we wish to close the dossier of inter-Arab problems and crushing divisions, I will also tell you frankly that none of the speculations had a factual basis because this neighbor did not honor the bond of neighborliness and "did what he did," causing Arab divisions. All we are asking for now is to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, adopted in line with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which are binding on us and him. I do not even have the right to negotiate with him. We would like the Security Council resolutions to be implemented and to see our sons return safely to their families. We want to know their fate. After that, everything can be resolved.

I asked the Kuwaiti foreign minister: It is said that Iraq denies, at all official forums, that it is holding any POW's. The Iraqis say that these are actually mixed Kuwaiti-Iraqi families who are living there openly. What is the actual verification that there are 600 Kuwaiti POW's and hostages?

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad (whose famous smile never left his face even during Kuwait's darkest hours) said: I would like you to answer a simple question. If they have a Kuwaiti national there, let them show him to the world and tell the Red Cross: This is a Kuwaiti who does not want to go back to Kuwait and my reply will be that this is his right and let him stay in Iraq if he wants.

Iraq's claims are false and unreasonable. It announced that it had 1,000 Kuwaitis who were denied reentry by Kuwait. I say I am willing to accept that they do not want to return. Let them stay in Iraq but show me their passports.

I asked the Kuwaiti foreign minister: There are speculations that Iraq has succeeded in wooing three countries—China, Russia, and France—to help it get the sanctions lifted.

Sabah al-Ahmad said: I am not a Security Council member and do not assume a status bigger than my actual one. I am saying, however, that the permanent and nonpermanent Security Council members insist that Iraq must implement the council's resolutions if it wants to be readmitted to the international community.

I asked: Does Iraq still pose a threat as [Kuwaiti Prime Minister] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah has frequently asserted?

Abu-Nasir said: Despite the current formal military agreements, we are still saying that the danger exists because Iraq has not implemented the Security Council's resolutions. We insist that the threat continues.

I interposed: Does this mean that you still do not trust the Iraqi regime?

The foreign minister added: I would be lying if I told you that we trust it. How can I trust someone who stabbed me in the back and continues to do so? He stabbed me by invading my country, by killing our young men in front of their families, by ruining the country's economy and setting 700 oil wells on fire. He destroyed everything—airports, hotels—everything. How can we trust such a regime? There can be no trust before the Security Council resolutions are implemented.

I interposed again: Does this mean that reconciliation is impossible?

The Kuwaiti foreign minister said: I did not say it is impossible. At the beginning of this interview I said I

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hope to see the whole Arab world living in harmony, but I pointed out who was the cause of this lack of harmony. Let them eliminate the cause and we will accept the principle of reconciliation. Regrettably, however, they created divisions not only between Iraq and Kuwait but among all the Arab countries. The current crisis can be summarized in a short phrase: lack of trust in the Iraqi regime.

I told Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Saudi Arabia recently demanded the release of POW's held by Iraq.

The foreign minister remarked: I would like to put this on record. Saudi Arabia did its duty with regard to our POW's. It put the Kuwaiti POW's before its own prisoners.

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Are Turkey and Iraq about to reach an agreement on the oil pipeline linking the two countries in return for 25 million barrels of oil for Iraq [as published]?

He answered: I have no dispute with Turkey over this issue. The dispute is among the Security Council members. As far as I know, the agreement will pertain only to cleaning and doing maintenance work on the Iraqi pipeline, nothing more, unless there are clauses that we do not know about. This is more the Security Council's responsibility than mine. Still, I hope that the agreement will not go beyond cleaning and maintenance arrangements.

I said to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Iraq has requested Jordanian mediation to hold meetings between Iraqi and Israeli officials to lift the sanctions and resettle two million Palestinians in Iraq. What is Kuwait's position on this?

The foreign minister said: I will not comment on this matter. This issue concerns Jordan, that is, if a mediation request was actually made. I heard the Jordanian information minister denying the news. With total frankness I tell you that this issue does not concern us here in Kuwait. What concerns us is that we backed the countries that fought Israel and now we are backing them until the negotiations between Syria and Lebanon and Israel end. When the negotiations are completed, we have no objection to following the same route with all the others.

I asked: It has been said that Kuwaiti businessmen have met with Israeli ones. What is the truth?

Shaykh Sabah replied: It also has been said that [Israeli Foreign Minister] Peres had visited Kuwait and had met the foreign minister. We denied the report. (We are the only ones in the Arab world who frankly voiced our opinion when we lifted the second- and third-class boycott. Everyone is now demanding the lifting of the boycott.)

Yes, I say it very frankly for a simple reason. There are European, U.S., and Indian companies that we need to help us reconstruct our country. But the first-class boycott, that is between our country and Israel, this will not be lifted except with an Arab League Council decision.

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: What is the truth behind the Jordanian envoy's visit to Kuwait?

The foreign minister said: He was not the first Jordanian figure to visit Kuwait. There is a Jordanian embassy and an ambassador's house here in Kuwait. Jordan has the right to send an "envoy" to visit the house, pay the rent arrears, and inspect the embassy. We hope that the situation with the brothers in Jordan will change. But that was the truth of the Jordanian envoy's visit, which was exaggerated.

I asked the Kuwaiti foreign minister: I have heard that you have investments in Africa. Is this a rumor? It is being whispered that lack of trust in the Iraqi regime has prompted Kuwaiti capital to opt for investments in far-away countries and that, because of the extreme caution, the Kuwaiti market is in a state of stagnation.

(Abu-Nasir) replied: If I was good in commerce and investments (I would have retired). But I tell you that I have a farm in Somalia, which I have visited from time to time. I spent my vacations there and not in Europe or anywhere else. But all I have in Somalia has been looted. That was the origin of the rumor about my investments in Africa.

I asked the Kuwaiti foreign minister (the longest serving foreign minister in the world, 35 years): Why did you remain outside authority for one year or more after Kuwait's liberation?

Abu-Nasir said: I wanted to rest.

What the foreign minister did not say: At first, the Kuwaiti opposition's condition was that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad should be excluded from the government. The editor of AL-WATAN once asked him: Where are you? Will you rejoin the government? Sabah al-Ahmad said his famous sentence: "I did not leave so as to return." People understood this to mean that he was staying in his post. During the October 1992 elections, the opposition whispered about the need for Sabah al-Ahmad's return to the Foreign Ministry.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad continued: His highness the amir forced me to return after one year and three months.

I asked him: Was the decision to bring Arabic language teachers from Mauritania a political one?

He said: My visit to the brothers in Mauritania reopened the door on our relations. Relations between Kuwait and Tunisia are economic and investment ones and it is the largest area of Kuwaiti investments. There is nothing odd in my asking Mauritania to send Arabic language teachers.

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I asked: What is Kuwait's official stance on the state of Palestine?

Shaykh Sabah said: The Gulf Cooperation Council was the first to welcome it. He added: Go back to the documents if you want. We welcome this step as the first one that will take us to the lasting and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian issue.

I asked the Kuwaiti foreign minister: Is Kuwait mediating between Morocco and Algeria after the recent problem between them?

Sabah al-Ahmad said: We need them to mediate for us. There is no mediation between Morocco and Algeria. A leaflet distributed [by Islamists] in Algeria says we recruited 147 Kuwaiti girls and trained them in Egypt to cooperate with the Algerian Government to kill Muslims! Nevertheless, we hope peace will prevail in Algeria, and it saddens us to see these people being killed.

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Are there any bridges between Kuwait and the Iraqi opposition?

He answered: We have relations with the Iraqi opposition. Kuwait financially helped those who were displaced in northern and southern Iraq; we sent them medical and food supplies. But our relations with the Iraqi opposition does not mean we are interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

I asked: What is Kuwait's top priority now?

He said: The top priority is to finish with this issue [border demarcation] through actions, not words. Let them present an official letter [recognizing the demarcation] to the UN Security Council and publish it in the official gazette. When we come to that, we will see what we will do.

The other issue is that the Kuwaiti captives must return to Kuwait. This is the demand and the hope of every Kuwaiti family.

[ROSE AL-YUSUF note] Kuwaiti documents show that there are 625 Kuwaiti men, women, and children(!) held in Iraqi prisons.[end note]

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Are there any problems regarding the demarcation of Kuwait's border? I hear about infiltration attempts.

The foreign minister said: We said and will continue to repeat: Let Iraq consult its own maps. These are: 1. Iraq's map as shown in the Iraqi guide for 1936. This map clearly determines Kuwait's northern border. 2. The map of Iraq economies, which shows that the political border is identical with the currently existing line. 3. A map by the Iraqi Education Ministry used in all Iraqi schools and published by the al-Muthanna Book Shop in Baghdad. 4. Iraq's official map as published under the title Iraq's Administrative Map. 5. A collection of Iraqi university books used by a group of Iraqi professors for teaching at Iraqi universities. 6. The Iraqi map that shows reconstruction projects. 7. Kuwait's map as prepared and drafted by Dr. Ibrahim Shawkah, from the Faculty of Arts and Science in Baghdad; this is an educational map circulated in Iraq's schools and institutes.

I asked Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad: Will the Kuwaiti leadership sit with the Iraqi Government if the regime is changed and Saddam goes?

He answered: We are neighbors, and "I cannot prevent my country from being a neighbor of Iraq, or of Iran, or of Saudi Arabia. To answer your question, I believe that priority should be given to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and to..."

I interrupted: Don't you feel that the people of Iraq are paying a heavy price as a result of the sanctions against Iraq?

Shaykh al-Sabah answered: This is the Iraqi people's problem with Saddam; it is not my responsibility. The Iraqis know it. I do not believe the people of Iraq will accept this man after their suffering as a result of his stabs against the Arab nation, his neighbors, and his own people.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad went into a moment of deep thought, which I wanted to interrupt by asking: What are you thinking about?

He answered: Three things:

First, there are no contacts between Egypt and Iraq.

Second: President Mubarak telephoned my brother his highness the amir and told him that there was nothing new.

Third: That confidence in the Iraqi regime is still missing. And we drank the bitter coffee.

## Saudi Arabia

### Opposition Mounts to Arrests of CDLR Activists

*LD1609095994 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] London, Sept. 15, IRNA—Opposition rallies in Saudi Arabia are reported to have become more politicised and spread to Riyadh as another prominent delegation was scheduled to arrive to assess the situation.

The London-based Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDLR) said there were huge gatherings in the city of Buraydah, 400 kms northwest of the capital, on consecutive days this week following the detention of Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah.

With another rally planned for Thursday, the Saudi authorities were given one day to respond to a demand for the unconditional and immediate release of all political prisoners, while people in Riyadh were said to have also called for a large rally Wednesday.

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The unrest has been fermenting with the rising number of academics and religious scholars being detained, the latest being Shaykh 'Awdah, who is said by the CDLR to be considered as the leader of the deeply religious masses in the Arabian peninsula.

The opposition group said that the embarrassment for the Saudi royal family was especially humiliating with the dissent taking place in the wake of U.S. President Bill Clinton, recently sending a fact-finding mission.

The conclusions of the American delegation was reportedly that there was no effective leadership in Saudi Arabia and that immediate action was needed to avert a potential catastrophe.

The CDLR suggested King Fahd was being advised by the U.S. to allow various reforms and that the irony was that should he refuse to implement them, he would end up "like the shah" whom the Americans failed to save from being overthrown in Iran.

Rallies were said to have taken place in Buraydah since Shaykh al-'Awdah was taken in for questioning last Sunday and have continued up to and after his rearrest on Tuesday, when a huge contingent of security forces armed with machine guns surrounded his house.

Monday's demonstration was reported to have been attended by followers uptaking [as received] the theme of 'solidarity with the oppressed in the Muslim world' and where pro-government Islamic scholars were judged to be even more criminal than the royal family. Up until Tuesday, there were said to have been no clashes at the rallies with the security forces in attendance.

The CDLR, who moved its office to London last year, said there was more doubt being cast on the endurability of the house of Saud [word indistinct] day, especially following the erosion of its credibility as a result of the unwise involvement in the Yemen crisis. With repeated rumors of a power struggle within the ruling family, it suggested that the governor of Riyadh, Prince Salman, could be favorite to take over from King Fahd and said he was busy consolidating his position.

### 'Official Source' Denies King has 'Health Problem'

*LD1609003394 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Sep—An official source told the Saudi news agency today that the Compass Bulletin [as received] published in Washington claimed on the 15 September 1994 that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz, had suffered some health problem on the night of 13 September. The aforementioned bulletin has reported conflicting and totally groundless information.

The source said: As we deny this report outright, we would like to stress that the glorious monarch is enjoying good health, thanks be to God. He had on the evening of 13 September received the Italian foreign minister in the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah; he also received the Eritrean president on the evening of 14 September.

He also had phone conversations with his brothers His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Republic of Egypt. He also had a phone conversation with his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques continues to run state affairs with the members of his government day and night.

## Yemen

### Presidential Council Reviews Oman, Russia Ties

*JN1509183994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today chaired a meeting of the Presidential Council, during which several national issues and regional developments were discussed.

The Presidential Council reviewed the results of the activities and meetings of the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council on the domestic and foreign scenes.

The Presidential Council took note of the results of the short visit made by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council to the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the results of his talks with his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The talks dealt with ways to enhance the warm fraternal relations between the two neighborly countries, joint coordination, and promoting relations between the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in the interest of their peoples and to support peace, stability, and security in the region.

The Presidential Council expressed its satisfaction with the level of fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries, noting the positive results of the visit.

The Presidential Council also took note of the message of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the brother chairman of the Presidential Council. The message deals with issues of interest to the traditional bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and enhancing prospects for cooperation. The message also expresses Russian support for Yemeni unity [words indistinct] siding with our people to overcome the traces of the war.

The Presidential Council stressed our country's eagerness to develop its bilateral ties with the Russian Republic in all fields to achieve the common objectives of the two friendly peoples.

The Presidential Council also listened to a report about the results of the visits made by Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, to the

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State of Qatar and the Kingdom of [word indistinct]. The council asked that the recommendations listed in the report be translated into action to develop relations of economic, trade, cultural, and technical cooperation between our country and the two fraternal countries.

The Presidential Council approved the changing [word indistinct] Lahij Governorate [words indistinct] al-Bayda' Governorate. It also discussed many issued related to the activities and efforts of the state agencies to reconstruct the country, expedite comprehensive development, improve administrative performance in government agencies, and improve services.

The Presidential Council stressed the need for intensifying national efforts in the area of reconstruction to rebuild what was destroyed by the traitorous, secessionist agents. The council then discussed many issues on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions.

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### Ramadan on U.S. 'Isolation' at Security Council

*JN1509143094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] In the first official reaction to the Security Council's decision to maintain the international sanctions imposed on Baghdad, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan said today that the change in the attitude of some countries toward Iraq and their demands to lift the Iraqi embargo is further evidence of the isolation of the United States.

### Government Troops Reportedly Clash With Opposition

*LD1509220794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Iraqi military units supported by artillary and tanks attacked the positions of the marshland people in the Abu-Asreh [name as received] region of al-'Amarah two days ago.

The Iraqi opposition radio said the offensive up came against resistance by the opposition forces which killed 25 soldiers, wounded another 15, and destroyed three military vehicles.

The forces of this Zionist regime also attacked the tribal people of Abu-Mohammad-Arab near the Amara River Thursday afternoon. In this attack two Iraqi military personnel were killed.

### Recent RCC Decrees Reported in Press

#### Amputation, Execution for Deserters

*JN1409142294 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 4*

[Text] Baghdad (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC], issued Decree No. 115 on 25 August 1994 stipulating that the outer ear will be cut off of anyone found in the criminal act of shirking or deserting military service, or anyone providing shelter for the shirker or deserter, and that the other ear will be cut off of those who commit these crimes again. The decree also stipulates that those whose ears are cut off will also be punished by having their foreheads tattooed with a horizontal line between 3 cm and 5 cm in length and 1 mm wide.

The decree also stipulated that anyone who has deserted military service three times, or has shirked it twice, or provided shelter to a deserter three times shall be executed by a firing squad. For the purposes of implementing the provisions of the decree, anyone who has abandoned his unit for over 15 days without legal permission shall be considered a deserter. The decree also states that the legal measures shall be suspended if the deserter turns himself in in Iraq within seven days after the decree is issued or within 30 days for those who are abroad. These provisions shall be implemented against those who committed the crimes of dereliction or desertion prior to the date of the decree's implementation if they have not turned themselves in within the said period.

The RCC has also issued a decree authorizing the competent minister, or the head of any institution not affiliated with a ministry, to charge an employee or any civil servant double the amount of any damage sustained by the budget due to the employee's negligence, dereliction, or violation of the laws and decrees. The charges shall be computed on the basis of the prevailing prices at the time of the occurrence of the damage.

The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

The Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 137 dated 25 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 1 September 1994

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Clause (A) of Article No. 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council has decided the following:

First: The competent minister or the head of any institution not affiliated with a ministry may charge from an employee or any other civil servant double the amount of the damage sustained by the budget due to the employee's negligence, dereliction, or violation of laws and decrees, on the basis of the prevailing prices at the time of the occurrence of the damage.

Second: The employee or the civil servant shall settle the whole amount stipulated in the first clause in one payment within three days of being notified of the charging decision.

Three: The competent minister or the head of an institution not affiliated with a ministry, in the case of failure to settle the amount within the period fixed in the second clause, may remand in custody the employee or the civil servant, who is subject to the provisions of this decree, and seize his movable and immovable property, and sell them and collect the amount due. He shall not be released unless the amount is fully paid.

Fourth: This Decree shall take effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Chairman of the Revolution Command Council

#### Execution for Organizing Prostitution

*JN1309162594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 118 dated 27 August 1994]

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[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 118 dated 20 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 27 August 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Clause (1) of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 155 of 21 October 1993 is hereby canceled and replaced as follows:

1. Anyone found organizing a group for the purposes of solicitation, which is stipulated Article "First" of the Law on Combating Prostitution No. 8 of 1988, is punishable by execution.

2. The property belonging to those mentioned in Clause (1), or any piece of property—whether movable or real estate—used for the purposes of solicitation, shall be confiscated.

Second: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

### Restitution Required for Embezzlers

*JN1309162894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 120 dated 27 August 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 120 dated 20 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 27 August 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: A person convicted of the crime of embezzlement or theft of state funds or of any other intentional crime shall not be released after serving his sentence unless he returns these funds, or whatever they have been transferred or changed into, or their equivalent value.

Second: The convicted person referred to in Clause "First" shall be subject to the provisions of conditional release and he shall not be covered by general amnesty laws or decrees on commutation of sentences.

Third: The provisions of this decree shall apply to cases which are still under investigation or trial and the sentences which have reached a definitive stage.

Fourth: Any provision in any law or decree contrary to the provisions of this decree shall not be applicable.

Fifth: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

### 'Popular' Medical Clinics Reinstated

*JN1309161894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 122 dated 28 August 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 122 dated 21 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 28 August 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: The Department of Popular Medical Clinics shall be re-established with all its formations, tasks, rights, and obligations provided for in Popular Medical Clinics Law No. (89) of 1986.

Second: The Department of Popular Medical Clinics shall enjoy a corporate status and shall be independent financially and administratively.

Third: This decision shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

### Private Transport Authority Created

*JN1309174994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 4*

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 127 dated 28 August 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

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Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 127 dated 21 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 28 August 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: A self-financed state authority shall be established under the name of the State Authority for the Management of Private Transport. The authority shall be linked to the Ministry of Transport and Communications and its head office shall be based in Baghdad. The authority may open offices for the management of private transport in all governorates.

Second: The authority shall enjoy a corporate status and shall be independent financially and administratively. The authority shall be represented by its director general or his authorized representative.

Third: The authority shall undertake the management, organization, and control of the transport of passengers and travelers inside Iraq and also between Iraq and other states by means of all private sector transport vehicles.

Fourth: The minister of transport and communications, in agreement with the minister of finance, shall determine the capital of the authority on the basis of the assets it will own, the revenues it will obtain, and whatever grants it may receive in one year as of the date of the enforcement of this decree.

Fifth: The authority shall be headed by a director general who holds at least a university degree and who is experienced and specialized in the field of transport.

Sixth: The authority shall be managed by a board of directors headed by the director general of the authority and including as members representatives of the following quarters:

1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications.
2. The Interior Ministry.
3. The Baghdad Municipality.
4. The State Establishment for Passenger Transport in Baghdad.
5. The General Union of Transport and Communication Workers.

Seventh: The vehicles covered by the provisions of this decree shall be registered at a special transport bureau and operate under its management and control.

Eighth: The Ministry of Finance, Baghdad Municipality, and the municipalities in the governorates shall prepare the necessary land sites for establishing compounds and departure stations for the transport vehicles. These land sites shall be assigned for the authority free of charge. This is in addition to other areas belonging to the state which are assigned for this purpose.

Ninth: The authority may propose passenger transport fares in the vehicles covered by the provisions of this decree. These fares shall be considered valid as of the date of their approval by the minister of transport and communications.

Tenth: The director general of the authority may impose a fine of 500 dinars on violators of the provisions of Clauses "Seventh" and "Ninth" of this decree. His decision in this regard shall be final. He may double the fine in the case of a repetition of the violation.

Eleventh: The minister of transport and communications has the authority to detain a violator for one month and to impound his vehicle in a traffic department for the same period if he commits the violation three times or more.

Twelfth: The authority's revenues shall consist of:

1. Revenues accruing from the rents of offices, stores, compounds, and assembly areas which the authority manages.
2. Fines charged on violators under the provisions of this decree.
3. Any other revenues that may be decided under laws, regulations, and guidelines.

Thirteenth: The authority shall replace the State Establishment for Passenger Transport in Baghdad for the purpose of obtaining the rents stipulated under Paragraph (2) of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 45 dated 20 January 1987.

Fourteenth: The employees of the authority shall be subject to the provisions of Civil Service Law No. (24) of 1960, State and Socialist Sector Employees Discipline Law No. (14) of 1991, and Civil Service Retirement Law No. (33) of 1966.

Fifteenth: The authority's departments, the duties of its board of directors, and the powers of its director general shall be defined under guidelines.

Sixteenth: The minister of transport and communications may issue the necessary guidelines to facilitate the implementation of this decree.

Seventeenth: This decree shall be carried out as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council.

## Russian LDP Delegation Continues Visit

### Met by Patriotic Front Official

*JN1509112694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, secretary general of the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, has stressed that the Iraqi people's capable and creative steadfastness and their rallying around the wise

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leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn have foiled the enemies' evil schemes and intentions seeking to infringe on the march of progress and awakening Iraq is witnessing in all fields.

During a meeting with a delegation from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], led by Aleksey Romanov, the party's deputy leader and vice chairman of the Russian parliament's foreign relations committee, 'Abd-al-Ghafur hailed the party's position in support of Iraq against the aggression and the unjust embargo. He noted that the stand taken by the friendly Russian parties and political forces will help strengthen the ties of cooperation between the two countries to serve the interests of their peoples.

Aleksey Romanov, deputy leader of the LDPR, hailed the steadfastness of Iraq and its people in the face of the aggression and the embargo. He also hailed the great achievements Iraq scored in the reconstruction drive, noting that Iraq, under leader President Saddam Husayn, has become a model for the world's peoples and their aspirations to build the bright future.

### Received by Assembly Speaker

*JN1509144594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today met with a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Aleksey Romanov, vice chairman of the Russian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee.

Salih reviewed the dimensions of the U.S.-led imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq's security and sovereignty and he indicated the need to develop bilateral ties in the common interest of the two sides.

Mr. Romanov condemned the insistence of the United States on retaining the sanctions and urged the international community and organizations to work toward getting the sanctions removed to assuage the suffering of the women, children, and elderly.

### Arab Position on Iraqi Embargo Criticized

*JN1309194294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Sep 94 p 3*

["Attention" Column by Hasan al-Kashif: "The Blockade and the Arabs"]

[Text] A Security Council review [of the sanctions against Iraq] will be made in a few days. This time, the review will not be a routine one, now that the technical procedures of monitoring have been completed and Iraq has removed from the hands of its enemies and foes the pretexts which they have been using to justify their hostility and negative attitude throughout the past three years.

There is an issue which we unhappily wish to point out; namely, the Arab position on the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq. This position, on the popular and official levels, is worth discussing. In this regard, we are excluding the hostile official position taken by the Hafar al-Batin governments [reference to the Arabs who took part in the Gulf war], led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as those who receive orders from the coffers of these two countries. We mean the position taken by the governments that refused to take part in the 30-state military aggression on Iraq.

On the popular level, we proudly point to the unified position that rejected both the aggression and the continued blockade. We, however, also point to the fact that the popular key figures have retreated from pressuring their governments into taking political and practical positions against the blockade. Despite the fact that the popular forces, key figures, and trade unions continued their principled political position, this consistency—which was documented in the archives—did not yield practical formulas that would maintain popular pressure to effect the required change in the official position.

On the official level, the statements made by Arab officials also talked about the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people, but without being associated with any initiative, move, or even a frank and strong condemnation of both the blockade and those imposing it. This has turned these statements into ones designed for local consumption and caution, so they did not have any political impact that could pressure the decisionmaking circles with regard to the blockade.

It also calls for sadness when we compare the Arab and international positions. Many international countries have expressed their interests more courageously, clearly, and practically than the Arabs. Those taking courageous positions no longer conceal the fact that they are annoyed and harmed by the influential U.S. policy that is dominating the international decisionmaking.

The blockade is about to end. If the Arab positions continue as they are, such an end will not be a source of pride for these Arabs. History will note that Iraq waged the battle of ending the blockade alone, exactly as it waged the battle of confronting the 30-state aggression alone. This will honor Iraq because, despite its loneliness, Iraq did not sell out its Arabism, nor did it take any position harming its pan-Arab commitment. Will the coming days witness an awakening that will benefit its owners, although it will be a late one? We hope so.

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### Sources Say Syria Understands Time 'Limited'

*TA1609070294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] Syria now understands that the time left for reaching an agreement with Israel is limited, political sources in Jerusalem said in response to the recent remarks by Syrian officials.

In reaction to the remark by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that an Israeli willingness would bring about progress in just a few months, a senior political source has said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who has so far conducted negotiations based on the assumption that there is no rush, has recently begun showing signs of a realization on his part that there is not much time left for reaching an arrangement with Israel at this stage and under the current circumstances.

The progress made on the other tracks, the agreement with Jordan, the progress made in the negotiations with the PLO, and the agreement on early empowerment in the West Bank had an impact on Syria which signals that the time has come. Nevertheless, the remarks of the Syrian officials do not show any kind of softening or flexibility in their positions. [passage omitted]

### Settlers Concerned Over Rumored Golan Evacuation

*TA1609115794 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Sep 94 p 7*

[Report by Yehuda Goren, Menahem Rahat, Hemi Shalev, Shefi Gabay, and ITIM]

[Excerpt] In an emergency meeting held by northern Golan Kibbutz Elrom settlers' on the eve of Yom Kippur, it was decided to "close down" the kibbutz today, not attend school, and join the Gamla hunger-strikers for one day to protest the headline in HATZOFE's Yom Kippur edition according to which Kibbutz Elrom will be the first settlement to be evacuated on the Golan Heights.

The kibbutz members demand that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin inform them, in an emergency meeting, whether this report is true. Several months ago Israel offered "Majdal Shams and the Druze villages first" to Syria. Kibbutz Elrom, the first kibbutz to settle on the Golan, is located near the Druze villages in the northern part of the Golan.

Senior political sources yesterday said this is "psychological warfare" waged by the settlers against the withdrawal. According to the sources, in all the contacts between Israel and Syria to date Kibbutz Elrom has not been mentioned. The sources said that "the report is a mixture of a little bit of information and a lot of imagination."

Golan settlers claim that Syria demands that the withdrawal be implemented over a period of two years—contrary to Israel's three years—in order to ensure that the withdrawal is completed prior to the next Knesset elections.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 16 September, in a page 1 report by Daniyel Ben-Simon and ITIM, adds the following: "Environment Minister Yosi Sarid told DAVAR the Israeli-Syrian negotiations are on the right track. According to Sarid several points of controversy remain on two main issues: the withdrawal timetable and the final withdrawal line. Sarid added he believes the prime minister may evince more flexibility regarding the timetable issue."]

Syria is also demanding that the first withdrawal stage include not only the Druze village of Majdal Shams, but also a Jewish settlement on the Golan Heights. As regards normalization, Syria agrees that it start only at the end of the withdrawal process and that it include only diplomatic relations, not trade and economic relations or mutual visits. [passage omitted]

### Shahal Wants To Question Palestinian Security Head

*TA1609112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal said this morning that Israeli Police wish to question Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security services, about felonies attributed to his men, Palestinian security men in East Jerusalem. Speaking with our correspondent this morning, the police minister said that three of al-Rujub's men are suspected of kidnapping a Jordanian national in Jerusalem and taking him to Jericho, where he is being detained. We cannot let such things go by, he said. Al-Rujub is responsible for and is also a suspect in this affair. His three men will be put on trial.

Al-Rujub said earlier that Israel has declared war on the Palestinian supporters of peace and that Israeli security officials are working to torpedo the Oslo agreement. He claimed that three of his bodyguards who were arrested last week were tortured by the Shin Bet. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Israel has released seven of al-Rujub's men, but five are still under detention.

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### Security Force To Join Observers in Haiti

*JN1609084394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] A responsible Jordanian source has said Jordan has agreed to contribute a group of Jordanian public security men to the international police forces that will carry out the tasks of observation and the extension of humanitarian services to Haiti's people.

The agreement on this contribution came in response to a request by the United Nations and also to contacts U.S. President Bill Clinton held with His Majesty King Husayn.

The source added that Jordan will play this role because it supports peoples' right to sovereignty, freedom, democracy, and to live in security and peace. Jordan views the role of its security forces that will take part in observation activities in Haiti, along with several other states, as a contribution to the service of these noble objectives as part of international legitimacy, he said.

Jordanian troops are currently taking part in similar tasks in Croatia, Cambodia, and other parts of the world.

### Tunisian Minister Arrives En Route to Europe

*JN1609073094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia has said Jordan and Tunisia are coordinating and making more efforts, in cooperation with the Arab League secretary general, to resolve all outstanding problems obstructing the restoration of cohesion to Arab ranks. He expressed optimism at efforts by many Arab parties to bridge the differences among the Arab countries.

The Tunisian foreign minister made these remarks to the Jordanian News Agency after his arrival in Amman en route to Europe. He was welcomed by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs.

### Minister: No Conflict With PLO Over Jerusalem

*NC1609061894 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, minister of education and minister of state for cabinet affairs, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-al-Majd] Minister, good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Rawabidah] Good morning to you. [passage omitted]

[Abu-al-Majd] Should we understand from what you have said, Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, chairman of the 102d round of the Arab League Council meetings, that the recent confusion about the Jerusalem issue with regard to political and religious custodianship of the city has ended between you and the Palestinians and that this confusion has been resolved in the Arab arena in such a way as to restore the water to its natural course and preserve inter-Arab relations?

[Al-Rawabidah] Yes. No issue regarding religious custodianship was raised. We were discussing political sovereignty over Jerusalem, which Jordan believes is the right of the Palestinians. Our Palestinian brothers did not raise any issue or point of conflict with regard to Jordan's religious relationship or custodianship over the Islamic holy places in the city of Jerusalem.

[Abu-al-Majd] A short time ago you said that the spirit of cooperation and accord prevailed over this conference. Could we deduce from this that the issue of Arab reconciliation is about to be resolved?

[Al-Rawabidah] I believe this issue is serious and I hope that the end of this year will witness real Arab reconciliation. We also expect our big sister Arab Egypt to play a major role in this field. The signs are that reconciliation attempts have started to surface in a serious manner. [passage omitted]

### IAF Protests 'Arrests,' 'Repressive Practices'

*JN1509120494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Salmah Ni'mat from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's Islamic Action Front [IAF] has strongly criticized Jordanian security authorities for arresting some IAF members. It called on Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to take action "in his capacity as the head of the executive authority" in order to check what it described as "repressive practices and fierce methods."

In a statement distributed to journalists, the IAF said that the Intelligence Department in al-'Aqabah summoned a Ports Corporation employee, who "was remanded in custody, subjected to all kinds of torture, and beaten at the hands of the al-'Aqabah intelligence director." It said the reason was that "this citizen perpetrated an awful crime, that is, joining the Muslim Brotherhood." The statement pointed out that the Brotherhood "is officially licensed, and its controller general was congratulated on his post by the crown prince, Your Excellency (the prime minister), and the speaker of the House of Representatives."

The IAF did not mention the name of this citizen. It said that these violations "take place everyday and in every governorate and city." It added that one of its founders was apprehended "while he was carrying out his teaching duty" at Abu-Dharr primary school. Addressing the prime minister, the front voiced "the hope of a frustrated and drowning person, that you will take action in your capacity as head of the executive authority, especially since every ministry is under your authority, including the Interior Ministry and the Intelligence Department,

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whose odd policies that disturb our life and undermine our dignity should not continue."

In its message to al-Majali, the front said citizens should feel that "the intelligence organs are affiliated with you and obey your orders. We hope that you will remove the injustice done to the detainees by releasing them."

A government source told AL-HAYAH that the security bodies "do not arrest anyone without a reason," pointing out that the government is unaware of any violations by the security organs. The source clarified that "for the security bodies to fulfill their job in protecting people, they must arrest those suspected of having connection with security violations." The source added that "this does not mean that we remain silent over any violations that might occur." He warned that "accusations should not be leveled arbitrarily before the truth is revealed."

Informed sources said that the security organs launched an arrest campaign against the backdrop of the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli talks, which resumed yesterday morning at a cultural center on the Israeli side of Lake Tiberias. They added that attention "is focusing on preventing extremist Islamic organizations that are active in other Arab countries from penetrating the Jordanian arena with the aim of generalizing the problem of confrontation between the Islamists and ruling Arab regimes." They said that the Islamic Movement in Jordan "adheres to democratic methods and shura" in expressing its attitudes, and "converges with the regime in combating violence and extremism."

### Hashd Defeats Attempts To Liberalize Party

*JN1509112294 Amman THE STAR in English 15 Sep 94 p 1*

[By Ra'id al-'Abid]

[Text] Self-described moderates within Jordanian leftist parties are concentrating their fire-power against the so-called traditional Marxists with the aim of giving the beleaguered Jordanian left a much needed face-lift. But these liberal forces are facing stiff resistance from old guard Marxists who believe the promised land of communism is still to come.

The first casualty over ideology was the Jordan Communist Party (JCP), which witnessed splits inside its leadership and among its rank and file leading to the formation of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP). By dropping "communism" from its name, the DSP has decided to "doctor" the traditional Marxist-Leninist ideology to withstand global changes and Jordanian democracy.

The Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), an offshoot of the People's Democratic Party (Hashd), has discarded the traditional Marxist-Leninist ideology altogether.

Hashd, which is historically the Jordan branch of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), is no exception. The party is presently facing a milestone ideological and organizational crisis which culminated in a split in its structure. Recently Hashd's central committee expelled its only parliamentary deputy Basam Haddadin after a simmering friction within the party's rank and file. So far, 14 central committee members have suspended their membership.

Labelled as the democratic trend within Hashd, the gang of 14 believes the party must drop its ideological baggage in favor of democratic reforms. "We have to adapt if we are to survive as a party," Mr. Haddadin told THE STAR. He called for the formation of a broad front within Hashd, a staunch opponent of peace with Israel, comprising not only leftists, but nationalists and democrats..

During its second general conference since its reestablishment in 1989, party idelogues made a fresh attempt to keep the old way alive. But the four-day conference last week, which was attended by 148 delegates, was not an easy sailing for its organizers. The party's general secretary Mr. Taysir al-Zibri walked out of the meetings after his motion for the party to have its own identity, while defining a new relationship with the DFLP, was rejected. The conference, however, approved a much more radical view presented by the Party's number two man, Mr. Salim al-Nahas, who wanted the relationship with the DFLP to be strengthened and supported the formation of a joint legislative committee with the DFLP, a move which is in violation of the Law of Political Parties in Jordan.

Mr. al-Zibri threatened to resign as party chief, leaving the conference and taking with him a quite a few supporters from the central committee. Sources say that this is what Mr. al-Nahas wanted since he had his eyes fixed on Mr. al-Zibri's job. But, his plan failed because the DFLP leadership directed the party membership of Hashd to reelect Mr. al-Zibri in his absence, to maintain unity.

As the conference concluded, delegates sanctioned the building of a strong alliance with the DFLP, and agreed to merge with the Popular Unity Party (PUP).

The conference also reconfirmed Marxism, Leninsim as the political line of the party.

Members of the democratic trend, who in addition to Haddadin include Jamil al-Nimri and Husayn Abu-Rumman, announced last week that the second conference was undemocratic. Participants in the venue were chosen specifically by the Hashd leadership to prevent any democratic reforms in the party, they charged.

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## Al-Hirawi Refuses To Lift Boycott on Israel

*NC1509113994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has reiterated his refusal to lift the boycott on Israel, even if all other Arab states agree to do so, unless our national position is acknowledged. The president made that statement when he received doyen of the press corps Muhammad al-Ba'labakki today.

Al-Ba'labakki quoted the president as saying that Lebanon cannot consent to lifting the boycott on Israel, even if other Arab states consent to do so, until Israel acknowledges Lebanon's national rights. He cited President al-Hirawi as saying that there are no plans to amend the Constitution's articles concerning the presidential term of office or the renewal or extension of that term. The president asserted that he will be very glad if he manages to achieve the liberation of the Lebanese territories and restore its full sovereignty before the end of his term. He added that he would then leave the mandate to the Lebanese people just as he had received it from the people.

If we get an Israeli pledge, guaranteed by the United States and the United Nations, to effect a planned and complete withdrawal within a specific time limit, Lebanon can then undertake to establish full security within its internationally-recognized borders, al-Hirawi said.

President al-Hirawi pointed out that contacts are under way to appoint a replacement for the resigned [interior] minister. There is no need for a rush in these matters, he said.

## Prime Minister, Others To Visit Syria's Khaddam

*NC1509162094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Health Minister Marwan Hamadah left Beirut for Paris on board al-Hariri's private plane this afternoon. They will visit Syrian vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to congratulate him on the success of the surgery he underwent.

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### Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Junblatt

*JN1509121194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of refugee affairs and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1200 today.

### Polish Industry Minister Makes Statement, Departs

*JN1509122894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Polish Minister of Industry and Trade Marek Pol left Damascus today following a week long visit to Syria at the invitation of the Industry Ministry.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Industry Minister Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, the adviser to the industry minister, and the director of the ministry's public relations.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Pol expressed his happiness at visiting Syria. He said: This visit has given us a chance to reactivate relations of friendship and cooperation in the industrial, economic, agricultural, trade, electricity, oil, and transportation fields.

He added: Our meetings with competent officials and ministers have also given us a chance to discuss all the issues and topics that contribute to promoting relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Poland, and to the exploitation of natural resources in Syria by a number of Polish companies. He described his talks in Syria as fruitful.

Concluding his statement, he praised the important and great achievements of Syria in all fields, particularly Investment Law No. 10, which allows Arab and foreign investors to carry out all kinds of projects.

### Libyan Official Arrives, Makes Statement

*JN1609081494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, assistant secretary of the General People's Congress in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Shakir Is'ayyid, deputy head of the Executive Committee of the Arab Parliamentary Branch, and Humayyid Abu-Bakr Jallud, secretary of the Libyan Arab Relations Office in Damascus.

Durdah made a statement to a Syrian Arab News Agency correspondent. He lauded the relations of fraternity and cooperation between both sisterly countries and peoples under President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Durdah indicated he will hold talks with the Syrian officials dealing with ways to enhance bilateral relations between both sisterly countries and consolidate the Arab position on the challenges facing our nation.

### Palestinian Self-Rule Practices Criticized

*JN1409171794 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 9*

["Opinion" column by 'Izz al-Din al-Darwish: "Beginnings and Results"]

[Text] It is not premature to say that the authority the PLO has set up in Gaza and Jericho does not by any means represent the Palestinian people's hopes and national aspirations. The beginnings are very clear and the results are known in advance, and the inhabitants of the occupied territories who coexist with this authority are well aware of this.

Yesterday, the PLO's police arrested several Palestinian nationalist cadres, including some of those who were deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Southern Lebanon and who spent more than one year under the open sky facing harsh weather conditions. The arrests were made at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's direct request.

The PLO's authority announced these new arrests, claiming that they have to do with the death of an Israeli soldier and the wounding of two others near Gush Qatif settlement in the Gaza Strip three days ago. PLO sources said that those who were arrested are being interrogated about the death of the soldier.

This incident and other similar ones show that Israel has employed the PLO to serve its schemes and has transformed it into a tool of repression against the occupied territories inhabitants, exactly as the forces of occupation are doing in other areas of the occupied territories.

One must emphasize the following two points: First, that the occupation authorities themselves recently abstained from arresting certain Palestinian national figures for political and propaganda reasons. They asked the PLO to do so. And, second, the arrest and interrogation of the detainees by the Palestinian police are carried out in the same manner, if not even more repressive, as the occupation authorities, as informed Palestinian sources affirm.

In any case, the facts on the ground show that the PLO authority adopts the same methods as the occupation authorities and complements them in many aspects.

What is strange is that the officials of this authority make one statement after another on negotiations and intensive efforts to release Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, who number in the thousands. Of what use is all this if the PLO's police puts more Palestinian young people and cadres in its jails after leveling at them the same accusations made by the forces of occupation?

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From all this, we can say that the limited Palestinian self-rule and the agreements and commitments resulting from it are in Israel's interest and against the aspirations of the Palestinian people in and outside the occupied territories. The beginnings clearly show what the results will be.

### Bureaucracy Seen Hampering Exports

*JN1409184794 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Aug 94 p 8*

["Frankly Speaking" column by Jihad al-Na'san: "From the Customs Files"]

[Text] We speak a great deal about encouraging exports. Every day, we read a new memo or a communique calling for the encouragement of exports. But it seems that what we need is a change in the mentality of certain junior officials who have been brought up in the school of routine, nonchalance, bureaucracy, and placing personal interests above others.

The incident we will relate now shows to what extent a junior official in the Customs Department can hamper exports using weak excuses. An exporter, who had received the approval and decision of the Guidance Committee to export his goods, ordered his workers to load the trucks, which then proceeded to Bab al-Hawa' border post. The official in charge of inspection told him that he could not export. Of course, the exporter read the committee's decision and it clearly permitted him to export the goods. Here the official asked the exporter to obtain an export permit. The department's officials differed among themselves and decided to refer the matter to the higher authorities. Thus the paperwork began its journey from the border Customs Department to Aleppo, then to Damascus, until it finally reached the desk of the director general.

The gist is, the exporter finally got the required approvals, but after 10 full days during which the trucks loaded with goods waited outside the entrance of Bab al-Hawa'. The exporter had to pay the drivers and truck owners a sum of money that exceeded his profits from the export deal. And, since these sums will have to be added to the cost of the goods, the whole export deal was a loss.

If a junior official at the customs department can hold up exports, and if obtaining a decision on whether goods require or do not require an export permit takes 10 days, then we may bid farewell to exports.

The owner of the goods had no doubts whatsoever as to what went wrong, but he simply said: You should know. We are the ones who complain now and say that in other countries the exporter is rewarded for his exports and is told: You are serving your country. Here, however, we say.... [end of sentence as published]

### Oil Production at Baniyas Exceeds Expectations

*JN1409172194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 22 Aug 94 p 8*

[Text] During the first six months of 1994, the Baniyas Oil Refinery in Syria refined 3.3 million tonnes of various oil products; an increase of 300,000 tonnes over the target figure. Refinery sources said that about 1.9 million tonnes were sold in the local markets, while 1.29 million tonnes, mainly fuel oil, were exported to world markets. The refinery's production capacity is six million tonnes a year.

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## Afghanistan

### Foreign Minister on Work at ICO Conference

*LD1509232194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, after attending the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign minister's conference in Islamabad, recently returned to Kabul.

Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, who led the Afghan delegation at this conference, said the following today in the course of an interview with a correspondent of the Bakhtar Information Agency:

Despite the opposition's persistent efforts, the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan took part, as a formal and [word indistinct] member, in the conference and took a constructive part in the work of the conference. The opposition's malicious efforts failed. They were not given the right to take part in the conference.

Dr. Lafra'i said: The opposition were only given a brief opportunity to take part in a four-man committee to express their views next to the state's official delegation and an Afghan neutral group. Furthermore, no country at this conference expressed support for the Islamic State's opposition stance. Their efforts, as a whole, failed.

In reply to another question Dr. Lafra'i said: The conference work results are generally very important for Afghanistan. The Afghan issue was on the top of the conference agenda. Foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan was mentioned in the conference's resolution. This was a (?warning) to interventionist countries to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, some of the member countries did not have precise information about the situation in Afghanistan. However, useful talks were concluded in this respect during the meetings with members of the conference.

At these meetings, the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan insisted that the member states exert pressure on the [word indistinct] side to stop the continuation of fighting in Afghanistan.

Dr. Lafra'i also met UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which was regarded by Dr. Lafra'i as being useful and constructive.

Regarding a report broadcast by the VOA, he said: The report alleges that I have accused Pakistan of interfering in the internal affairs of Pakistan. This report, quoting me, is untrue.

We were and are asking for good relations with Pakistan. The question, however, is in the mind of the Kabul people, who are suffering from the fighting and rocket attacks. They are asking: How can all these rocket attacks continue without foreign assistance of weapons and ammunition to the opposition? The leaders of Pakistan who always speak of noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, [words indistinct] are asked to cooperate in ending this interference from wherever source it comes from.

### Faction Calls For Continued Resistance

*LD1509221994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 94*

["Announcement" by the military department of the Harakat-e Eslami, Islamic Movement, of Afghanistan; no date given]

[Text] Courageous sons and brave combatant commanders: Stand fast and resist. God loves those men who fight on the path of God, who resist and stand fast in crushing the ruthless and hypocrites. May God's help and victory be with you. [words indistinct]

As you inflicted a crushing blow to the Russians, we hope today, you will inflict, once again, a crushing blow to the lifeless body of [words indistinct] and thus discharge your duty, (?civic) responsibility, and historic mission. May God be your helper and assistant.

[signed] Military Department of the Harakat-e Eslami of Afghanistan

### Golboddin-Dostam Militia Rockets Kill 4 in Kabul

*LD1509193994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia fired 43 rockets and shells on residential regions of Kabul today.

A spokesman of Kabul garrison reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the defamed Golboddin-Dostam militias fired 43 rockets and shells today on Kabul city's residential areas. As a result of these rockets, four citizens of Kabul were killed and another 13 were injured. These rockets, in addition to loss of life, destroyed five houses. A number of other houses were damaged.

### Government Reportedly Seizes Positions in Fariab

*LD1509193294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] As a result of a mopping-up operation carried out around Fariab Province, several strong positions of the defamed Dostam militia were seized yesterday by the forces of the Islamic army.

According to reports reaching the BAKHTAR Information Agency, the operation that was launched by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army under the

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command of Commander Abdollah Tofan, [name indistinct] District, Fariab Province, [words indistinct] were cleared of Dostam's militia. During this operation, 22 militiamen were killed, and another eight were captured by the mojahedin. [words indistinct]

### Anti-Rabbani Parties Claim Capture of Darolaman

*LD1509162894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] In Afghanistan, the war in Kabul continues between the rival factions. According to incoming reports, the warring groups are engaged in heavy fighting over the control of Darolaman Palace, considered to be one of the strategic positions south of the Afghan capital. So far, 12 people have been killed and 140 injured in this round of the fighting.

During fighting in the past three days east of Kabul between the parties of Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar, approximately 20 people from both sides were killed.

According to the latest reports, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] sources say that, with the cooperation of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], they have succeeded in capturing the Darolaman region, south of Kabul. [passage omitted]

## India

### New Drug Policy Allows 51 Percent Foreign Equity

*BK1509161394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] Abolition of industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and their formulations, removal of price control on 73 drugs, setting up of an authority for price fixation and permitting foreign companies to have 51 percent equity are the highlights of the new drug policy announced today.

The long-awaited policy was announced by the minister for chemicals and fertilizers, Mr. Ramlakhan Yadav, at a crowded press conference in New Delhi. He said the new policy will ensure that the drugs are available at reasonable rate and will not hit the common man. The policy also provides for a 4 percent higher return for manufacture of drug from basic stage. It says the government will keep close watch on the prices of medicines which are taken out of price control. In case the prices of these medicines rise unreasonably, the government will take measures, including reclamping of price control.

### Air Force To Fit MiG-23s With Missiles

*BK1609042894 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] The Indian Air Force [IAF] has a proposal to redesign the deep-strike MiG-23 aircraft indigenously. It has plans to modify the aircraft to accommodate air-to-air missiles on the lines of the more advanced fighter bombers. According to IAF spokesman, the public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is studying the feasibility of the proposal. Our correspondent Rudranath Sanyal has the details on some of the resources of the Indian Air Force.

[Begin Sanyal recording] The air defense systems and fighter aircraft now being used at the forward bases of the Indian Air Force are not always of the latest makes, but still, the IAF is able to ensure the survival and superiority of these bases with low-cost modifications and simple innovations. For instance, in the desert reaches of Rajasthan, a combination of the relatively old MiG-21 and MiG-23 aircraft have been found to be more effective than the high- cost and multi-role F-16 fighter bombers.

The Indian air bases are all the more formidable because of the hidden underground radar control rooms. The IAF personnel here can pick up signals from practically any flying object coming in from across the borders. If the need arises, IAF surface-to-air missiles can be activated almost instantly, and Indian fighters can take off in less than two minutes to intercept any aircraft both during the day and at night. [Video shows missiles mounted on launch vehicles; fighter aircraft taking off and IAF personnel working in the underground radar control rooms of an air base]

This particular IAF base near the Pakistan border in Rajasthan uses MiG-21, MiG-23, and MiG-27 aircraft of Russian origin. Some senior pilots and technical officers here believe that it is possible to modify the undercarriages of the MiG-23 aircraft indigenously to fit it with the lethal air-to-air missiles on the lines of other new generation aircraft.

Apart from these machines, the new generation fighter pilots are among the biggest assets of the forward bases of the Indian Air Force. It takes about seven years and several crore rupees worth of investment before each fighter pilot is able to reach his pinnacle, that is when they are able to perform the roles of a cockpit manager, a signaller and a gunner single-handedly. By then, these young men also acquire all the technical knowledge required to fly the high-tech machines of their generation. [end recording]

The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says though India began with a small air force, it has acquired self-sufficiency in air defense. He was addressing the flight cadets from the United Arab Emirates undergoing training at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad. Mr. Pilot said the training institutes in the country are producing some of the best pilots in the world.

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## Iran

### Commentary Views 'Nonrelation' With U.S.

*LD1509155994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Voice of America [VOA] announced last Tuesday [13 September] in a report that the general directorate for the Near Eastern and South Asian affairs of the U.S. foreign ministry has shown interest in negotiating with the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the VOA, American authorities prefer to avoid any mutual-deterring policy. This expression means the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf for the purpose of gaining control over the strategic Straits of Hormuz—a policy which apparently is meant for creating security on the Persian Gulf, but in fact was designed for justifying the American military presence.

The pretext of such U.S. power exhibitions was said to be existing threats for the regional countries. This policy had made some 90 billion dollars of arms and weapons flow towards the Persian Gulf, mainly from the U.S.. This is at a time when, during the post revolutionary era, the Islamic Republic of Iran—in view of the exigencies of her principled policies—has constantly endeavored in preserving and strengthening regional security. These policies were also aimed to defy regional threats.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's constant measures for expanding and deepening its relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states is more evident to be doubted or denied. So far, the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf region have shown and adopted some very favorable stances towards Tehran. This conducive situation prevailing over the relations of the Persian Gulf states is perfectly indicative of the baselessness of the American claim of regional menaces. These facts have actually caused the Persian Gulf littoral states to adopt the same double-standard policy as the U.S. in their relations in Washington.

Nevertheless, the one thing that really matters here is that Iran has always had a crystal clear stance against the United States of America: a policy of nonnegotiation and nonrelation. This policy is based on the negation and denouncement of all American expansionist, as well as hegemonistic, policies; a policy which has demanded the U.S. to curtail her domineering hands from various countries and to stop dictating her self-centered policies to other weak nations.

This political approach has always been announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran authorities, most specifically by its eminent leader.

### Complaints Voiced on U.S. Anti-Iranian Propaganda

*NC1509163994 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 94 p 2*

[Editorial: "U.S. Struggles To Increase Presence in Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Douglas Katz, the U.S. Navy Commander in the Persian Gulf, ended his tour of duty last Tuesday [6 September]. He told an Associated Press (AP) reporter recently that the Iranian threat was on the rise, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran was involved in producing offensive as well as defensive weapons. Let us pause for a moment and ponder on his statements.

He has tried to say to the countries in the region that: "Iran poses a greater threat everyday." The United States wants to sour relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states. By so doing, the U.S. can then pose itself as the protector of these nations and thus legitimize its presence in the Persian Gulf.

The United States has adopted a policy of containment of Iran. One aim of this policy is the ostracization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One way to ostracize Iran is to make regional countries worry about what Iran might do next. If that state of permanent distrust is realized, then the U.S. will be able to: a) pawn its arms to customers in the region at a greater price and a faster pace; and b) deepen the influence of the number one mischief-maker in the world, the U.S.A., on the military structure of this region for decades; and c) to participate in the regional security plan.

The U.S. wants to dissuade the Japanese from directly purchasing oil in the region. It also wants to control relations of the regional states with the countries which the U.S. perceives to be a threat, such as China and Russia.

The U.S. is concerned with the expansion of economic and military cooperation between Iran and countries beyond the Persian Gulf.

The efforts of the U.S. to maintain its traditional sphere of influence in the region have ended in failure because the Islamic Republic of Iran has, independently, and oblivious to American priorities, defined a new policy based on its own national security objectives.

Under the pretext of containing the communist expansion, since the end of World War II the United States has controlled the bilateral and multilateral relations of the countries in the region. After the demise of the Soviet Union, the U.S. can no longer use Soviet aggression as an excuse; it has to use the Islamic Republic as a bete noire.

In this manner, the U.S. will try to use a four-pronged program in its propaganda against Iran: First, Iran is to be accused of complicity in terrorist acts in the remotest corners of the globe. Secondly, Iran will be accused of violating human rights. Thirdly, Iran will be charged with opposing the so-called peace process in the Middle East. Fourthly, Iran will be accused of developing nuclear weapons.

These propaganda ploys are aimed at preventing other countries from expanding their relations with Iran. Persian Gulf countries must realize that the main threat in

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this region is the very presence of the United States. This presence will become more extensive because there are hidden political, economic, and military agendas.

Is it unacceptable for Iran to strengthen its defense capabilities, but acceptable for the U.S. to impose its military presence on the region in order to, once again, ensure its hegemony?

Through its efforts, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proved that it is genuinely interested in peace and security in the region, but if there is any threat to its national interests, the nation will respond decisively within the framework of a "legitimate defense".

### Commentary Views Motives Behind U.S. Policy in Haiti

*LD1509225594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Over recent days America, by dispatching aircraft carriers with 50 choppers and nearly 4,000 personnel of its 10 mountain divisions abroad to the coastal waters of Haiti, has prepared grounds for a lightning operation to occupy all sensitive military, government, and telecommunication centers there.

Since this military action is to be carried out under the pretext of a resolution of the UN Security Council, about 15 European and Latin American states too—by sending 1,500 of their troops to Central America—have allied with the United States.

At this stage an important question being posed by most of the people who are closely observing the developments in Haiti is as to what is the U.S. goal in launching an expedition against Haiti. In response to this major question two totally different answers are given. America and its allies believe that they are invading Haiti to defend democracy and to restore the lawful government of Jean Bertrand Aristide through removing the government which assumed power in a coup. In accepting this response one must pay due attention to this basic issue. If the defense of democracy is so important for America that it is ready to spend several million dollars, why does it not take such an action in similar cases including Algeria? Further, to what extent is the breach of a country's national sovereignty important in return for the preservation of democracy?

The second opinion which is expressed in response to their question concerning the U.S. goal behind its intervention in Haiti appears relatively more logical. Proponents of this view say that America and the Monroe Doctrine deems Latin America as the region under its control. For this reason it is sensitive to any move that may endanger its interest in the area. According to this view America is trying its best to safeguard its long-term interest in Haiti. Hence, were military rulers in Haiti willing to compromise with America, Clinton would have definitely abandoned the issue of democracy in Haiti.

In the past, too, America on numerous occasions has compromised with coup-led governments in Latin America, Africa, and Asia without giving any consideration to their disregard of freedom and democracy by their military rulers.

In conclusion one can accept the reality that the United States is once again testing the experience of its defeat in Somalia, expecting that the world should accept it as the chief of the global village located in the White House.

### UN Envoy Says Tajik Peace Talks 'Positive'

*LD1609112194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] Diplomatic discussions aimed at following up the Tajik peace talks continued in Tehran last night.

The vice president of Tajikistan, representatives of the opposition to the Tajik government, the Russian deputy foreign minister, the representative of our country's Foreign Ministry, and the UN representative are taking part in the talks.

The UN secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan described as serious and positive the Tehran talks which are aimed at establishing a cease-fire and peace in Tajikistan. The talks will continue with the aim of finding a final solution.

### Crisis, Talks Viewed

*NC1509172494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Sep 94 p 2*

[Editorial: "Practical Ways for Achieving Peace in Tajikistan"]

[Text] In spite of holding two rounds of peace talks on Tajikistan's long-standing issue, they have reached no agreement. [sentence as published] Last Saturday [10 September] the capture of Tavildara city by the Muslim Mojahedin further aggravated the conflict. The current situation indicates that Muslims pin their hopes on a military solution which would jeopardize the security in the region for an unlimited time.

In view of the current situation, it will entail catastrophic effects such as the spread of the crisis, loss of security, weakening the power of the central government, and eventually foreign intervention.

Therefore, it is essential for both Russia and Tajikistan to try their utmost to achieve a long standing accord.

While the nationwide election should be regarded as a turning point in Tajikistan's history, the opposing Muslim groups have set preconditions which should be

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fully observed by the Russians and the Tajiks. Otherwise, a military solution will be the only option for Muslims, according to the vice-chairman of Tajikistan's Islamic Movement Party, Akbar Turadzhovzada.

This ultimatum directly aims at the Russian government which supports the Tajik regime which lacks popular support.

The preconditions set by Muslims, including those related to the repatriation issue which constitutes thirty percent of eligible voters, freedom of political parties' activities, and freedom of conscience prisoners should not be regarded as illogical, and Russia has to make the Tajikistan authorities admit them.

Past experience has proved that suppressing the tendency toward Islam has resulted in the formation of political and military organizations. Meanwhile, the continuation of suppression will result in opposition from organized groups.

The Russian government should learn a lesson from Africa, especially Algeria and Egypt, and if it wants good relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States, it must review its stance vis-a-vis the will of the Tajik people.

Russia should not pave the way for foreign intervention in the region, but respect the territorial integrity and the will of the newly independent states.

### Significance of Talks Discussed

*NC1509133694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Text] This week Tehran was the center of gravity for the Tajikistan peace talks. Representatives of the Tajikistan opposition and Government participated in a joint session for a third time.

While the first round of talks in Moscow and the second in Tehran had a positive result for the two sides, political observers believe that the beginning of a third round, the second in Tehran, sees the trend toward restoring peace in Tajikistan entering a new phase.

In the Tehran talks, the UN secretary general's emissary on Tajikistan, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, the vice president of Tajikistan, the Russian deputy foreign minister, and high-level Iranian Foreign Ministry officials including the foreign minister are participating.

Our correspondent Qorughi interviewed the leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, Sayed Abdullo Nuri, on the talks in Tehran.

[Begin recording] [Qorughi] What do you think about the current round of talks? To what extent will they yield results? Will the wishes of the mojahedin and the government representatives be achieved?

[Nuri, speaking in Tajik] Yes, if both sides can truly solve their problems by realizing the sorrows of the oppressed and suffering people of Tajikistan and can reach conclusions in this round. Both sides should sincerely strive for the continuing existence of the nation of Tajikistan and for halting bloodshed. They should choose the path that is in the interest of the nation and that creates peace between the two sides.

[Qorughi] What is the main demand of the mojahedin? What do they want?

[Nuri in Tajik] In this conflict, imposed on the people of Tajikistan by foreigners, the mojahedin want a neutral Tajik group qualified for the purpose to set up a government council. This government council should control the administration and capable individuals should thus establish an interim government. In this manner they can restore peace quickly and eliminate the malice and hostility prevailing among the people.

When the people feel that they are free and can vote freely and can ensure their own security and freedom, then we can say that the referendum is based on the Constitution and that the presidential elections were free and democratic. We cannot call them democratic. Elections, nothing else, are the sole means of solving the Tajikistan people's problems. [end recording]

Time and the manner of convening the elections are among the issues causing a dispute between the opposition and Tajik Government. Our correspondent spoke to Tajikistan Vice President Abdolmajid Dostiyev [title as heard] to elicit the Dushanbe government opinion. [Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] The Tajikistan Government has announced that the elections should be postponed until the month of Azar [22 November-21 December]. But the mojahedin, the opposition, do not accept the principle of elections in the circumstances. What is your opinion?

[Dostiyev, speaking in Tajik] Most of the people in Tajikistan and the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan concluded that the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan would appraise the bill, which would be put to the vote by the people. The leader of the Tajikistan Government will also be elected by the people as is their right.

[Correspondent] What will be the effect of your talks with Dr. Velayati, who also held bilateral consultations with the other parties involved, on restoring peace in Tajikistan?

[Dostiyev] All these will pave the way for the time when, God willing, peace and solidarity can be durably established in Tajikistan. [end recording]

What cannot be ignored is the interests of the people of Tajikistan, which should constitute the basis of every peace proposal. The current talks in Tehran are pursuing this objective.

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### Syria Warned Against 'Concessions' to Israel

*NC1509181594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Sep 94 p 2*

[Editorial: "Al-Asad Should Think Twice"]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who has been considered a frontline fighter in the struggle against the cancerous Zionist entity, expressed his willingness to work for peace on the condition that Israel fully withdraw from the Golan Heights.

On Saturday Assad said he was ready to fulfill the requirements for peace in the Middle East, implying that he might be prepared to make concessions.

The surprising announcement was made by President al-Asad after the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, said Israel had offered Syria a 'marginal' withdrawal from the heights over a three-year period, during which the two sides would normalize their relations.

Such an announcement by President al-Asad is surprising, as he knows well what 'Arafat and his associates received from the September 13, 1993 agreement with the Zionist regime.

The so-called Palestinian Authority is at the disposal of the sweet will of the occupying regime which is in fact dictating what 'Arafat should do.

It was President President al-Asad who used to demand the annihilation of that entity which the Founder of the Islamic Republic, the late Imam Khomeyni, called, "A cancer in the body of Islam."

'Arafat, once on the front line in the anti-Zionist struggle, is facing the worst humiliation. He is forced by the Zionist regime to arrest the Palestinians who raise their voices for their 'birth rights.'

The question of one of the holiest sites of Islam, the 'First Qebleh,' could not be resolved, and the entire Muslim Ummah have expressed their disgust over the issue. The plot of the massacre at the Masjid al-Khalil [Hebron] and the partition of Beyt ol-Moqaddas is still fresh in the memory of Muslims.

The forty-year history of oppression by the Zionists and their masters, the arrogant American rulers, cannot be ignored. We would like to remind President al-Asad that hundreds of thousands of people have sacrificed their lives, and millions have become homeless. What kind of answer does President Asad have for them?

Last but not the least, we would like to remind President al-Asad that the Almighty God has warned Muslims against succh agreements with people like the Zionists.

The Holy Qoran says: "How can it be, while they prevail against you, they do not pay attention to the ties of relationship, nor those of covenant. They please you with their mouths, while in their hearts they do not consent, and most of them are transgressors." (9:8).

Israel declared that the final agreement for their complete withdrawal will be signed after three years! What guarantee does President al-Asad have that the Zionists will withdraw from a strategically important Golan Heights? It is nothing but a mousetrap over which the Syrian leader should think twice before acting.

### Arab League Claims on Abu Musa Said 'Baseless'

*LD1609110994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Sep 94*

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman admonished the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab League for repeating the baseless claims pertaining to the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the Iranian island of Abu Musa. He said that Iran's sovereignty over Abu Musa island is permanent and indisputable.

Mr. [Ahmad] Mohammadi said: The adoption of such stances not only does not help the resolution of regional problems, it also contravenes the policy of good neighborly relations in the region, achieves nothing but creating discord, and serves the alien powers' interests in the sensitive and strategic region of the Persian Gulf.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed direct talks with the UAE to solve the problems and misunderstanding between the two sides within the framework of the letter of Shaykh Zayid, the UAE head of state, addressed to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and on the basis of mutual agreements. But, unfortunately, instead of turning to serious talks and accepting the invitation of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UAE government has resorted to unfounded claims and has raised a hue and cry, which will only result in making the situation more complex and exacerbate the problems.

Mr. Mohammadi pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that, instead of perpetually fanning the flames of such misunderstandings and making baseless claims, Arab countries should concentrate all their efforts and resources on resolving the real problems of the world of Islam such as the removal of the Zionist aggression and hegemony from the region.

### Ruhani Interviewed on Domestic, Foreign Issues

*NC0909123094 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 4 Sep 94 p 3*

[Part one of a two-part interview with Deputy Majles Speaker Dr. Hasan Ruhani after his visit to India; place and date not given]

[Text] [HAMSHAHRI] What do you think is the major threat against our system and our revolution?

[Ruhani] If we want to speak about a threat against the system, we should look inside and not outside. A foreign enemy cannot be our major enemy, no matter how

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dangerous. An enemy may inflict pressures. But the people will resist. I think that if we maintain our unity at home, no foreign enemy can create problems for us. What can be a threat against the system is domestic problems. If differences start and the unity of the society as a whole is upset, this will be the major threat. The element of the supreme leader and the people's obedience to the esteemed leader form the main pillar that can preserve this unity. Our national unity can be fully safeguarded. We do not regard the supreme leader only within the canonical context but within the national context so that we can effectively safeguard the country and national unity. The issue of the unity of society and preventing differences should always be taken into consideration. We should also pay attention to the cultural and economic issues in society—both of which can be dangerous if we lack a good program that can bring progress coupled with justice. I consider these to be major issues that we should always heed.

[HAMSHAHRI] Our policies on social and cultural programs and on domestic and foreign policies are much more short-term than our economic plans. At least in the economic field, our plans are for a five year period. But apparently these plans are much shorter in other non-economic fields. Do you not think that this applies to all our plans? The general feeling is that we are usually inactive when it comes to non-economic policies, although recently some reforms have been seen in this field too. How can Your Excellency explain this?

[Ruhani] We can have plans that go beyond five years and that include a series of principles that can form the basis for longer-term plans. The system's major policies should definitely be long-term. At the National Security Council we are seeking a middle-term strategy for a 30-year period. We are working to compile this plan which will be approved at a suitable date. As far as the country's roads—highways, railways, ports, and airports—are concerned, we envisage a 30-year plan. Therefore, in some of the fields the timetable should be more than five years and we should adopt macropolicies. Now in the second five-year plan, in some cases we are continuing and complementing what we started in the first five-year plan.

As for foreign policy, we have had a special and specific situation on the whole. We had special policies, especially during the [Iran-Iraq] war. After the war our foreign policy started to operate on the basis of a strategy. The fourth term of the Majles too has been active in this and in compiling a specific policy for each country. The Foreign Ministry too has become active during this past year. The people too feel that during the past three or four years, we have had a calculated policy based on a specific strategy. For example, with the detainment of an Iranian ship in Turkey, the people saw how the ship was returned to us with our logical strategy while, if we had wanted to react on the basis of a temporary policy at that time, problems would have been created or Iranian border areas would have been bombed by Turkey. But Iran's policy was logical.

Of course, there may be cases where the policy of the officials is to react. Our stand on Egypt has not been one of inaction. We have true affection for the Egyptian people and they too have special affection for the Iranian revolution. Egypt has been the center of ideological changes and it has played a noteworthy role in the revival of Islamic thought during the last century. And this revival of thought has been influenced by Iran. Egypt is the religious center of the Sunnis and we have a close affinity with Egypt. Egypt is in a sensitive location.

However, we had to sever our relations with it because of Camp David and al-Sadat's wrong positions on the Islamic revolution. Today we can work in the cultural and economic fields and even in some of the parliamentary fields with Egypt's deputies. But the time may not be right to establish diplomatic relations with it. The Middle East is now full of new incidents which are all wrapped in a cloud of ambiguity for everyone. On the one side, we see that Muslims are doing one thing and on the other, we see that the regional governments and the West are doing something else. We should wait and see what future developments will be.

[HAMSHAHRI] As far as relations with Iraq are concerned, we see that whenever the issue of the two countries' closeness comes up, an obstacle also rises. When do you think our relations with Iraq will be normalized, and do we have a specific strategy on this or not?

[Ruhani] Our strategy is specific. We wanted and want to have normal relations with Iraq. The problem now stems from inside Iraq. Iraq is in an unfavorable situation. It does not control the northern part of the country. It cannot control southern Iraq, and it is facing an embargo. And the Baghdad regime is doing whatever it can to end this embargo.

But they have not acted correctly toward us, as was expected of them. We wanted them to be more explicit in their discussions with us on certain issues such as the prisoners of war. Currently, we cannot make any judgment on Iraq as it is today. The massacres that it perpetrated and the international situation that it is in today makes it difficult for us to make any judgment. But, despite all these unfavorable conditions in Iraq, we want to have relations and to be in a situation that is better than what we have today. However, Iraq itself may think that if its relations with Iran are not good, it will have scored a point with the West and that it can then tell the West: If you let us be, we can acquire the necessary power and stand up against Iran.

Of course this is not a secret and has been clearly repeated several times by Tariq 'Aziz in his news conferences. They say the same things behind the curtains, too. Of course no attention is paid to what the Iraqis are saying because everyone knows that these remarks are being made only to save themselves. I think that if Iraq is freed from the current situation and if democracy is established there up to a certain extent, we will want to

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have good relations with our neighbors. The basis of Iran's strategy is to avoid conflicts with its neighbors.

It is not easy to overcome the friction with Iraq. Nevertheless, our deputy foreign minister visited Baghdad, and they, too, sent their deputy foreign minister to Iran. Our foreign minister, too, was to pay a visit which could have helped to decrease the friction and also to solve problems in some fields. But the explosion at Imam Reza's shrine forced the postponement of this trip because we saw Iraq's footprints in this explosion. On the one hand, the Iraqis strengthen the forces that are against us, and on the other they send bombs into our country and encourage groups to plant bombs in our economic centers. These policies cannot be regarded favorably by us.

Iraq should alter its strategy toward Iran and understand that its only alternative is peaceful coexistence with the Iranian people and good-neighborly relations with us. It will not gain anything by keeping the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] on its territory and sending bombs into Iran, in the same way that it was unable to do anything during the war despite all the foreign support that it had. I think that Iraq has realized the fact that the interests of its country lie in its good relations with Iran. It is, however, more interested in showing that it opposes Iran so that it can solve its international problem.

[HAMSHAHRI] In view of your sincere relationship and good acquaintance with the president, do you think that once his term of office ends, the only place for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be as Majles speaker or will he serve the revolution in some other field, or will any change be made in the Constitution?

[Ruhani] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a personage who has been valuable in any field that he has served. Positions and responsibilities are not what have brought glory to him. When he is present at Friday prayers, he fills the entire scene and brings a special dignity to the Friday prayer tribune. When he was in the Majles, the Majles gained a pivotal role in the country. I think that it is not important where Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be after his term in office or whether it is necessary to change the Constitution for him to be re-elected president or to become Majles speaker. I believe that even if Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has no position, he will continue to be what he is. He is a personage who has played a major role in the victory of the revolution and in continuing on the path that has been charted by the revolution. He is respected everywhere and his presence has been effective for the revolution and for the country. It is too soon to speak about what will happen three years from now. At any rate, his role will always be a major one.

[HAMSHAHRI] Who will be the executive officer of the country in the future?

[Ruhani] There are many competent people in our country and the final judgment will be made by the people. Those who feel that they are competent will be voted for by the people. I think that anyone who is competent can shoulder this responsibility with the help of the esteemed leader. But I think that this is a heavy responsibility, and we do not have many people like Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who can shoulder it.

[HAMSHAHRI] How do you assess the performances of the fourth and third Majles terms since you have been present during both terms?

[Ruhani] The first thing is what the people can easily see, which is the similarity between the Majles and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the press. Whatever we do is done right in front of the public. The Majles deliberations are open and the people can directly hear them.

The fourth term is calmer than the third term was. In the third term, there were frictions, conflicts, commotion, and sometimes words that were not worthy of the Majles were uttered. Of course we had a special situation at that time with the conclusion of the war; the acceptance of the [UN] Resolution; the death of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified; the election of the Majles speaker to the post of president; and the general situation of the country. But the fourth term is calmer and the atmosphere is better for deliberations and discussions. The Imam himself always advised that deliberations in the Majles should be serious and that everyone should be sincere.

My personal judgment is that the fourth term is better than the third term.

The fourth term is better in the use of advisers in commissions and in setting up research centers, and an example of this is the approval of the annual budget. I felt in the Majles that the deputies had a more active and better approach to the budget bill and that most of the deliberations were active. Also, figures show that the academic level of the deputies of the fourth term is higher than that of the third term. Coordination between the fourth term and other bodies is also better. In the third term, we sometimes did not have any coordination between the Majles and the government. Of course, during the fourth term sometimes the government is criticized, and this is very natural. But on the whole, it benefits the system and the country that the Majles is active in carrying out its duties.

## TV Second Channel Ground Stations Commissioned

*LD1509162094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Sep 94*

[Summary] With the commissioning of television satellite ground stations today in Shahr-e Kord, Kuhrang, Faradonbeh, Lordegan, and Ardal, in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiyari Provinces, at a cost more than 57 million rials and 62 million dollars, 73 percent of the province's

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population can now receive the programs of the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Pakistan

### Iranian Support for Kashmir Resolution Expected

*BK1609063994 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 15 Sep 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "Pakistan-Iran Economic Cooperation and the Kashmir Issue"]

[Text] During a meeting, Pakistani and Iranian Presidents Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed unanimity in their views on resolving the Kashmir issue according to UN resolutions and developing economic cooperation between the two countries. Pakistan welcomes the Iranian offer of mediation between Pakistan and India. Pakistan and Iran are not only neighboring countries, but also have ties based on common faith. The two countries have adopted a common stand on various regional and international issues. On Kashmir, too, Iran's position conforms with that of Pakistan. Recently, however, Iran has gradually developed its economic ties with India. This is why the Iranian leadership is optimistic that it will be able to play a mediation role. Because Iran agrees with Pakistan that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with UN resolutions, India might refuse to accept the Iranian mediation offer. India persists in claiming that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it has also rejected a U.S. proposal on the issue. Despite all this, if Iran manages to play a mediation role, Pakistan has no objections.

On the issue of Pakistan-Iran economic cooperation, Pakistan has always been in favor. Pakistan not only wants to develop economic relations with Iran, but it also wants all countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization to strengthen trade and economic ties among them and to abandon the practice of depending on outsiders. God the Almighty has bestowed upon the Muslim countries of this region natural resources, manpower, and other bounties. However, other countries benefit from these resources.

It is unfortunate that the Muslim countries of this region on one hand express interest in the Kashmir issue and that their foreign ministers at their meeting supported the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, while on the other hand these Muslim countries are interested in developing trade and economic ties with India. The money earned by India from trade with these Muslim countries is being spent on purchasing and producing arms which are used against the Kashmiris. Therefore, the Pakistani and Iranian leadership needs to pay special attention to this fact. It is hoped that Iran will use its influence at the UN General Assembly to help get the resolution on Kashmiris' rights adopted and that its relations with India will not become an obstacle in this regard.

President Leghari's visit to Iran has helped expand economic cooperation between the two countries. It was decided during the visit that Pakistan will increase the amount of crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas which it purchases from Iran, and Iran will increase its rice purchases from Pakistan. An agreement was signed under which Pakistan will purchase gas from Iran, with pipelines being laid in the two countries for this purpose. The signing of the memorandum of understanding reflects the seriousness of the two countries to expand trade ties. However, further progress needs to be made in this area. After President Leghari's visit to Iran, it is the duty of concerned authorities to ensure that the positive gains of his visit are realized.

### Probe of Nawaz Sharif Interview Ordered

*BK1609100894 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Sep 94 p 1*

[Text] Islamabad—Minister for law and justice, Senator Syed Iqbal Haider, said Thursday the opposition leader Nawaz Sharif will be interrogated for accusing army and ISI [Inter-services Intelligence] of being involved in heroin smuggling in a probe ordered against his (Nawaz's) purported interview with THE WASHINGTON POST.

In a press conference in parliament's committee room the minister said: "We will like to interrogate Nawaz for his allegations against army and ISI, particularly in the light of the statement of journalist Kamran Khan and the management of the US daily which claims to have proofs of the interview.

The minister was asked to give details of the inquiry ordered into Nawaz's interview which he (Nawaz) himself had denied. The foreign office has, however, declined to give details of the inquiry saying it was not in their domain. A spokesman told journalists that files were with the law ministry. Iqbal Haider too was reluctant in giving details of the inquiry saying he was busy with the senate proceedings and had not yet seen the files.

The minister warned that lawlessness on the part of anyone including the opposition leader would not be allowed. Commenting on the impounding of two of Nawaz Sharifs vehicles, he said one of these was being used for supplying arms to train marchers through criminals dressed in fake uniforms of police. If police had failed to arrest them, they might have opened fire on the people at Rawalpindi railway station.

Similarly, the second vehicle was also wanted for involvement in criminal activities, he added. He denied that the opposition was made a target of victimisation and clarified that the victimisation of political opponents was the hallmark of Nawaz Sharif regime when PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders were sent behind bars in false cases and the whole country was converted into a jail to crush PPP's long march in November 1992.

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## Nawaz Sharif Calls For Strike 20 Sep

*BK1609104394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Sep 94 p 1*

[Excerpt] Islamabad—In an attempt to increase pressure on the government after the conclusion of train march, leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif has given a call for general strike in the entire country for September 20 (Tuesday). Public rallies and processions would also be held on the day.

Talking to newsmen here at Muslim League House Thursday, Nawaz Sharif admitted, "the train march was a new experience in my political career and it was certainly much more than I had ever expected. This has demonstrated that the people need a change".

The decision came at the end of a five-hour meeting Thursday where besides PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League], its allied parties ANP [Awami National Party], JAH [Jamiat Ahle Hadith] and JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] also participated. These were represented by their parliamentarians from both the Houses. The meeting also decided to set up a Supreme Council headed by Nawaz Sharif which would deliberate upon the opposition's future line of action and make annouuncements from time to time. Three resolutions were also passed during the meeting.

"All the parties have given me their mandate and I have full authority to decide about their future moves. I will also determine the number and those who would constitute the Supreme Council", disclosed Sharif. The opposition would soon requisition the National Assembly where discussion would revolve around inflation, unemployment, lawlessness and the five points that the opposition had demanded earlier at its Karachi rally. [passage omitted]

## AJK Court Ruling on Northern Areas Issue Viewed

*BK1609105594 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 16 Sep 94 p 10*

[Editorial: "The Northern Areas Issue"]

[Text] The Supreme Court of Azad Jamil and Kashmir (AJK) has ruled in a judgement Wednesday that the Northern Areas (NAs), though a part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir as it existed on August 14, 1947 are not a part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir as defined in the AJK interim Constitution of 1974. In doing so it has set aside a judgement by the AJK High Court in March last year to the effect that Gilgit and Baltistan were part of AJK, directing the government of the latter to assume the administrative and judicial responsibilities of the NAs, Obviously, the court has dealt with the legal merits of the case and handed down, in its wisdom, the appropriate verdict. The government of Pakistan which has administrative control of the areas, albeit within a constitutionally ambiguous framework, has reason to be pleased with with the decision. The AJK government as well as other concerned elements, however, are likely to have received it with considerably less enthusiasm. And, in fairness, the issue from their point of view is not simply a matter of wresting control over the area from the government of Pakistan. The AJK leadership stresses that this issue has a direct bearing on the case for ensuring the exercise of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control, in line with United Nations resolutions. In fact, successive governments have also taken the position that NAs were part of the disputed area and its people should have a say in any eventual plebiscite in kashmir. It is in this context that the attorney-general also, while arguing the government's case before the AJK Supreme Court, emphasised the transitional nature of the arrangement.

Amidst all this, however, what has to be considered is the reality of sheer neglect that the people of the area have had to suffer while their affairs were being run by the government of Pakistan. But this has not meant that the people of the NAs have come to regard annexation with AJK as the better alternative. While they have protested bitterly and often in the past at their state, the general sentiment appears opposed to linking up administratively with AJK. If anything, there is a degree of resentment at their status being kept indeterminate, involving the denial of their democratic rights, in view of the Kashmir situation. Other aspects aside, what is clearly critical in this situation is that the longstanding grievances of the people of the NAs be redressed. The administrative and judicial reforms package granted by the government in April this year was an encouraging step as it provided, for instance, for the party-based elections to the Northern Areas Council scheduled to be held next month. A party-based political set-up in AJK as well as the NAs should in any case facilitate closer collaboration between the people of the region, in pursuit of varied and not necessarily incompatible ends.

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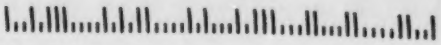

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